

# THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow.

## The social impact of Derek Chauvin's trial

By Sean Schmoyer  
Co-News Editor

On May 25, 2020, George Perry Floyd, a 46-year-old black man, died while being arrested by officers of the Minneapolis Police Department.

Four officers were present at the scene when Floyd was killed. Three of them - Alexander Kueng, Thomas Lane and Tou Thao - will stand trial together on Aug. 23 later this year. The three officers are accused and will stand trial for the charge of aiding and abetting second-degree murder.

March 29 was the first day of the trial for Derek Chauvin, the white police officer who is accused of causing Floyd's death after kneeling on Floyd's neck for nine minutes and 29 seconds while Floyd was handcuffed and face down on the ground.

Depending on the verdict of the trial, Chauvin could be found guilty from the selection of three criminal charges he is facing: second-degree murder, second-degree manslaughter and third-degree murder.

The judge presiding over the case, Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill, reinstated the third-degree murder charge, which was previously thrown-out in the fall.

"The reinstatement of the third-degree murder charge is a win for the prosecution

because it gives the jury another option to convict, assuming they don't think Chauvin has committed second-degree murder," explained Dr. Kyle Kreider, professor of political science. "Felony murder in Minnesota carries a 40-year maximum and third-degree carries a 25-year maximum. I believe the second-degree manslaughter charge carries a maximum of 10 years. Basically, it seems like the jury will be discussing Derrick Chauvin's letter of intent in causing the death."

Kreider explained that the intent requirements are as follows: 1) For second-degree felony murder, "causing the death of another human being, without intent to effect the death of another person, while intentionally inflicting bodily harm on another"; 2) For

second-degree manslaughter, "causing the death of another by one's culpable negligence whereby the person creates an

unreasonable risk"; and 3) For third-degree murder, "causing the death of another by perpetrating an act reasonably dangerous to another and evincing a depraved mind," which means to have been acting recklessly.

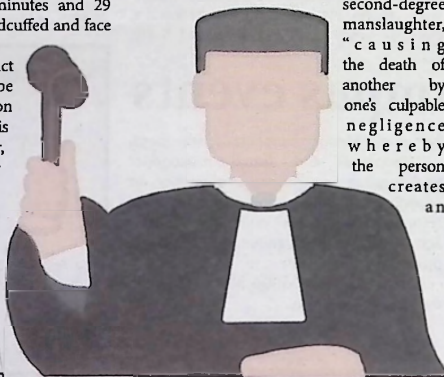
In the fall, Cahill ruled that the prosecutors could not prove Chauvin's actions had placed anyone beside Floyd in danger. Before Chauvin's trial, the Court of Appeals urged Cahill to reexamine the third-degree charge based on a precedent set by an appeals court.

"Even though they are factually different, I have to follow the rule that the Court of Appeals has put in place, specifically that murder in the third degree applies even if the person's intent and acts are directed at a single person," said Cahill.

After the judge's reinstatement of the third-degree charge and the conclusion of jury selection, the trial officially began with opening statements from the defense and prosecution.

Chauvin's defense attorney Eric Nelson addressed the jury in his opening statement, expressing that the key elements of the case that will help decide the verdict all rely on the interpretation of the facts at hand.

The defense laid out that Chauvin's actions were necessary in his line of work and that Floyd's cause of death was cardiac arrhythmia, which refers to a group of conditions that cause the heart to beat irregularly. In this case, the defense stated that those conditions were hypertension, Floyd's coronary disease and ingestion of methamphetamine and fentanyl.



## BASE: Wilkes extends winning streak to eight with sweep over King's

By Kirsten Peters  
Editor-in-Chief

On Monday, Wilkes concluded its four-game series with crosstown rival King's, advancing the Colonels to an eight-game winning streak following back-to-back series sweeps against FDU-Florham and King's.

Wilkes won 6-5, 11-4, 5-2 and 6-3 in the pair of doubleheaders against King's.

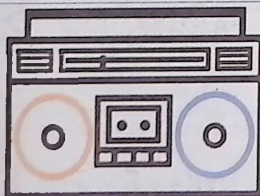
"We had a great team weekend, and a lot of guys stepped up big for us," said head coach Kevin Gryboski. "To run eight wins in a row is always a reason to celebrate. To be able to celebrate Zonk's (Andrew Indzonka's) save record against a rival like King's was extra special!"

Indzonka, or "Zonk" to his coaches and fellow players, broke Wilkes' career saves record and set a new record in the final game of the series. First, in the 5-2 victory, Indzonka tied Jason McDermott with 16 saves. In the second contest on Monday, Indzonka set the new record at 17 with time left to spare in the regular season and prior to postseason play.

"I didn't think about (the record) once I got out on the mound, but I knew going into the

TRIAL, page 3

BASEBALL, page 19



The Beacon/Anna Culver

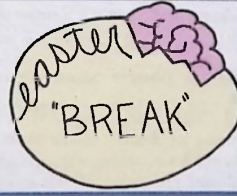
Student Government brings back Block Party event for April 24, page 3



The Beacon/Emily Cherkaukas

Noticing red flags?

The importance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month with Title IX, page 7



The Beacon/Zoey Rosensweet

The great Easter Break debate: Was it too short?, page 16



The Beacon/Arlie Reed

WLAX: Three hat tricks and a haul lift Wilkes over Del Val, page 20

# News

Have a breaking story or a press release to send? Contact the news editors: Sean.Schmoyer@wilkes.edu and Sara.Ross@wilkes.edu

## Student Government: April 7 weekly meeting notes

By Maddy Kinard  
News Staff Writer

Student Government held its tenth virtual meeting, in which there was a Wilkes University Enactus Chapter club report, a Block Party budget request and nominations for member and club of the month.

To start, the Wilkes University Enactus Chapter presented a club report to the council. Enactus aims to bring together a collective group of students and faculty to be agents of change who not only speak about making a change but act on that wish to make change happen. Currently, there are 20 members enrolled in the chapter.

Recruiting efforts are underway for Enactus, as they have upcoming presentations planned for courses BA 152 and BA 153, both A and B sections. This is estimated to be around 100 students. Their goals are to establish leadership roles,

support at least three members to attend the Enactus World Cup, hold one meeting per month along with one competition per semester and hold a presentation given by a Head Quarter Representative on scholarships. There are many benefits to students involved in Enactus, such as networking opportunities, more exposure on LinkedIn, scholarship and job opportunities and professional exposure. New members can even receive an Enactus pin and a \$5 Dunkin' Donuts gift card.

Next, the Block Party Committee presented a fund request for the event. The event will be held over the span of four hours on April 24 on both sections of the Greenway. The theme is "Eras," so each section will represent a

different period in time. There will be many activities like lawn games and scavenger hunts, along with food from Wilkes' Tony Wallace on the grill and Pete Webby's Food Truck. T-shirts will also be given away along with multiple prizes, such as a TV, Nintendo Switch, kayak and much more.

In Block Party's price breakdown, food totals around \$4,550, T-shirts are \$2,000, decorations are about \$500 and prizes are \$1,200. This comes to a grand total of \$8,250. Student Government will vote on the request at the next meeting.

Members then made nominations for member of the month. Mia Rubino, a first-year representative; Megan Makovsky, the sophomore class secretary; and Sarah

Erickson, the first-year vice president, were nominated. After a vote, Mia Rubino won as March's member of the month.

Club of the month was voted upon; however, all nominations were not eligible to be recognized as clubs. The Multicultural Student Coalition and The Beacon were nominated and will be represented on a board of recognition.

Dance Marathon will be underway from April 12 to 24, as its budget request was accepted last meeting. Next, Student Body and Mega Council president nominations are closed. Finally, Casino Night is also still in the works along with Spring Fling, which are awaiting updates from administration before moving along with planning and finalizing the events.



@wilkesbeacon  
Madelynn.Kinard@wilkes.edu

## Beacon Briefs: Upcoming campus events

Compiled by Sara Ross

English Department Welcomes Author Howard Norman

The Wilkes English Department is wrapping up the Allan Hamilton Dickson Spring Writers Series with a visit from Howard Norman on April 14 and 15. On April 14, there will be a fiction workshop as well as a reading led by Norman. Then, on April 15, Norman will be visiting Dr. Mischelle Anthony's ENG 397: Studies in Postmodernism class.

All of these events are open to all Wilkes students, faculty and staff. Those interested in attending can contact Anthony to register for both the fiction workshop and the class visit. For the reading, the event link can be found at [wilkes.edu/dickson](http://wilkes.edu/dickson).

Sallie Mae Offers Two Free Webinars

Sallie Mae is providing two webinars for students to attend; however, space is limited. One will take place on April 14 called "Understanding Credit," and the second is titled "Identity Theft," which will be held on April 21.

"Understanding Credit" will provide students with a foundation of how credit works and how building a responsible credit history early on is needed to establish a strong credit score. Jenelle Dito from FICO will review the five primary factors considered in building, managing and maintaining credit scores and discuss the best practices to do so.

"Identify Theft" will cover the basics of how to go about restoring one's credit if their finances are ever fraudulently used. During this session, tips and recommendations on preventing identity theft and how to repair one's identity and credit if it is stolen will be shared.

Wilkes to Observe Sexual Awareness Month

April 2021 marks the 20th official anniversary of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which was created to bring awareness around and prevention of sexual assault, harassment and abuse. To learn more about SAAM, visit <https://www.nsvrc.org/saam/history>.

The "Be Clear, Be Colonel" Campaign is a university initiative aimed at reducing

barriers to reporting incidents of harassment, discrimination and sexual misconduct by educating our campus community on reporting options, support services and resources. There will be multiple events and activities hosted throughout April to further promote awareness about this campaign.

Reach out to [samantha.hart@wilkes.edu](mailto:samantha.hart@wilkes.edu) for more information.

@wilkesbeacon  
Sara.Ross@wilkes.edu

### Table of Contents

News.....	2
Life, A&E.....	7
Opinion.....	14
Sports.....	19

### Upcoming Events: 2021 Spring Semester

**April**

- 14 – Crip Camp Film
- 15 – Class of 2023 Magnet Sale ends
- 15 – Wear Red to stand against sexual assault, stalking, dating and domestic violence
- 16 – CPFI Dove Pin Fundraiser ends
- 18 – Battle of the Halls
- 19 – American Red Cross Blood Drive
- 20 – SLAM Venting Session
- 22 – Nominations for the Multicultural Awards Due
- 28 – Wellness Day

**May**

- 10 – Movie Ticket Sales end
- 15-22 – Final exams period
- 29 – Spring 2021 Commencement
- 30 – Spring 2020 Commencement

Want your event featured in the calendar?  
Email: [TheWilkesBeacon@wilkes.edu](mailto:TheWilkesBeacon@wilkes.edu)

# Student Government brings back Block Party for April 24

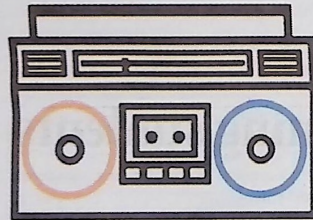
By Sean Schmoyer  
Co-News Editor

Student Government has not been able to host its Annual Block Party event since the Spring of 2019, as the university had to send students home due to the COVID-19 pandemic last spring.

Block Party is a single-day event that is scheduled to be held toward the middle or end of April every year. The event is organized by the Student Government vice president. Currently, that is Brooke Mazzotta, senior biology and pre-med student.

"The purpose of Block Party is to bring the campus community together for a day toward the end of the semester," Mazzotta said. "Students work so hard during the semester, and Block Party serves as a day to enjoy time with friends, play games, eat yummy food and possibly win great prizes."

This year, the events planned for Block



Party include lawn games like kan jam and cornhole, an outdoor scavenger hunt, a TikTok challenge, a T-shirt giveaway and music from Wilkes' student-run radio station 90.7 WCLH.

Mazzotta expressed that she hopes the day will be one that students can spend enjoying each other's company outside, hopefully, with good weather.

"Honestly, it sounds really cool, and I like the local catering and the outdoor setting," said Bryanna Chase, junior criminology major. "Wilkes is doing pretty good at getting students out of their room in safe and social ways. The Block Party is a really good event for that - it's pretty nice."

The fate of Block Party was up in the air this year due to having to follow COVID-19 safety protocols and other Student Government events, such as Casino Night and Spring Fling, having to be postponed.

"After the many cancellations, it feels amazing to be able to host Block Party this semester," said Mazzotta. "A lot of hard work was put into making this event possible, and actually seeing the event start to come together makes it even more special. I feel as though it was a long time coming to have an event outside in the spring again."

Some of the hard work that needed to be done in preparation for the event was planning to meet social distancing and

other health and safety protocols. This year's Block Party will have a funneled entrance, similar to the setup that has been successfully used in the Marts Center for COVID-19 assurance testing.

Students will be required to go through temperature checks at the entrance, and in addition, there will be sanitation stations provided and all games will be cleaned after each use.

Student Government will be using Presence to record attendance to aid with any contact tracing that might be needed. Students will also be socially distanced and wearing masks.

"What truly has made this event possible is our students following all the guidelines

posted on campus, which has made our campus be able to function and now have fun outside events again," said Mazzotta.

Monica Morrison, senior psychology major, echoed Mazzotta's thoughts on the guidelines that have been put in place for the event.

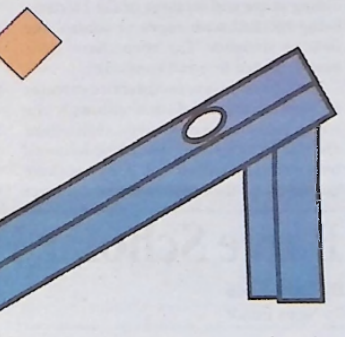
"I think Block Party is a great idea as long as we all work together to keep following social distancing and safety guidelines," said Morrison. "I am so happy to be slowly getting back to some type of

'normalcy' as a senior graduating soon. The weather has been so nice lately - I think an outside event will definitely lift some spirits."

Tony Wallace, Henry's Dining Hall's very own "Tony the Grill Guy," will be grilling outside, a sight which Mazzotta hopes will bring a sense of normalcy to the event. Other food options available will be Pete Webby's food truck for funnel cakes and fried Oreos.

Block Party will be held this year on Saturday, April 24 from noon to 4 p.m. outside on the Greenway.

Sean.Schmoyer@wilkes.edu  
Graphics by Anna Culver



## TRIAL, from front

The prosecution is arguing that Floyd's cause of death is instead asphyxiation caused by Chauvin's use of excessive force.

"We all know that drugs have an impact on the body, but people that do drugs build up a tolerance, so it takes larger amounts for them to overdose," said Logan Biechy, senior psychology and criminology major. "I think another issue to address is that many people say, 'He was just doing his job,' and his job is not and should not be to kill people. If you view the police profession as one whose purpose is to kill people, then that's a wider issue we need to be addressing as a society."

So far, numerous witnesses have been called to the stand to testify about the events that occurred on May 25.

Some witnesses who were underage were allowed to testify but had their names concealed and only had audio not video aired. Along with them, other witnesses testified to what they saw unfold between Chauvin, the other officers and Floyd.

One witness was an entrepreneur and professional fighter, Donald Williams, who watched as the police officers pinned Floyd to the ground.

After the scene was cleared, Williams had stayed and called 911 to report what he considered a crime and murder that unfolded in front of his eyes.

The prosecution played the recording of Williams' call, and then Williams faced examination from the defense, who questioned him about his experience in MMA and portrayed Williams' experience with the events that occurred that day as limited, as he was not at the scene when the events began.

Hope Williams, president of the Wilkes University College Democrats, has been following the trial closely since it began.

"The trial of Derek Chauvin speaks to the injustices that African American men and women have been facing for decades," Williams said. "This trial has been utterly heartbreaking from the evidence that has been presented every day of this trial!"

In its second week of testimony for the

trial, numerous members of law enforcement have been called to the stand, including retired Sgt. David Ploeger of the Minneapolis Police Department, who was Chauvin's shift supervisor, and Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arradondo. In addition, medical professionals and first responders at the scene also testified.

According to Arradondo, "There is an initial reasonableness in trying to get him under control in the first few seconds, but once there was no longer any resistance, and clearly when Mr. Floyd was no longer responsive and even motionless, to continue to apply that level of force to a person prone-out, handcuffed behind their back - that in no way, shape or form is anything that is by policy - is not part of our training and is certainly not part of our ethics or our values."

Multiple medical examiners stated that methamphetamine and fentanyl were not the cause of Floyd's death on April 9.

In one case, Dr. Martin Tobin, a pulmonary specialist, testified that four factors led to Floyd's low oxygen levels, including Floyd's

prone position on the street, the handcuffs that pulled his arms back, a knee on his neck and a knee on his back and down his side.

"From what I've seen of the trial so far, I think the defense is doing a poor job of trying to convince the jury that the cause of death was not an issue from air restriction and rather that it was from past drug use," said Biechy.

The trial is expected to continue for a substantial amount of time before a verdict is reached. What can be observed is that many officers of the law and medical professionals have testified in ways that hinder the defense's case.

The results of Chauvin's trial, just as Floyd's death did in May, are expected to have an impact on the United States at large.

"No matter which way the verdict goes, the country will never be the same," said Hope Williams. "If ex-officer Chauvin is found not guilty, the world will be absolutely outraged - to say the least."

Sean.Schmoyer@wilkes.edu  
Graphic by Zoey Rosensweet

# COVID walking restrictions adjusted in Henry's Dining Hall

By Maddy Kinard  
Staff Writer

Henry's Dining Hall, located on the third floor of the Student Union Building, is one of the main sources of food for many students on campus. Recently, some of the walking restrictions that were originally implemented for COVID-19 safety have been altered.

Since the dining hall is such a frequently populated location, changes have been implemented over the past year to comply with COVID-19 guidelines and keep students and faculty safe. These guidelines include the use of plastic takeout containers for all food, marked entrances and exits, social distancing within the dining space and sections of the cafeteria being blocked with ropes to control the flow of students. The ropes have since been removed to avoid confusion.

James Watkinson, food service director at Wilkes, expressed that although the ropes have been taken away, restrictions are still in place and should be followed by students. Food service is still working on finding the best way to enforce

restrictions, which led to the removal of the ropes.

"All of the safety precautions are still in place," said Watkinson. "Students should still follow the directional flow, use the marked entrances and exits, as well as social distance within all dining spaces. Currently, we are working on the best way to communicate these expectations without adding confusion in the dining room. Floor decals at 3 feet are the number one priority in this case."

Students expressed similar opinions as to the confusion the ropes created. These restrictions made it unappealing to go to the cafeteria for some students, as it was difficult to navigate the area. However, opinions have been divided on the subject.

"I have been going to the SUB since the fall semester consistently," said Taylor Reiff, sophomore biology major. "The extended pathway to enter the SUB and toward the food made the SUB less appealing and initially made it confusing to navigate through. I am not concerned with the lifting of restrictions, personally. Restaurants off-campus are using these same policies, and very few have seen

negative impacts from it."

On the other hand, some students view the restrictions as beneficial, as they add an extra layer of safety when eating on campus. One such student is Trey Harloff, junior mechanical engineering major.

"I have been going to the cafeteria very frequently, and I think that the COVID-19 restrictions that were in place were fair and made me feel safe while still being able to eat with friends," said Harloff. "I think that it is okay that they are doing this, as long as students still do their part in social distancing and simply wearing their masks."

This recent lifting of restrictions is also coming off of a sudden spike of positive cases on campus, allowing those on campus to question whether students will still adhere to COVID-19 guidelines with the physical representation of them (the separating ropes) being removed.


Kara Foster, first-year computer science student, has less meal options being that she is a first-year student, and this makes the changes in the cafeteria set-up especially important to her.

"I was rather surprised to find that

the ropes had been taken down in the cafeteria," said Foster. "I do not think that lifting restrictions was a good choice. I also don't think the ropes were actually doing anything because people were still crowded together while waiting in line. I am worried about a sudden spike in cases with restrictions being lifted. Unfortunately, being a freshman, I do not have much choice but to go to the cafeteria for meals – restrictions or no restrictions."

It is unclear what the next step may be for the cafeteria in this gradual progression toward normalcy. Watkinson indicates that whatever further action may look like, it will follow COVID-19 regulations as they continue to change.

"We continue to operate in accordance with CDC, state, local, university and Aramark guidance," said Watkinson. "We have all the same precautions in place as the beginning of the Fall 2020 semester and plan to operate in the best way to keep our campus community safe following all of these guidelines."

 @wilkesbeacon  
Madelynn.Kinard@wilkes.edu

# Barre Scholar Program made available to incoming students

By Sara Ross  
Co-News Editor

A new academic program is opening up to prospective students in the Class of 2025 called the Barre Scholar Program.

The idea for the Barre Scholar Program was introduced by the Interim Director of the Honors and Scholars Programs, Dr. Jonathan Kuiken, during the Fall 2020 semester. He has been working with those in admissions and alongside the Honors Assistant Administrator Jen McLaughlin to develop the program.

"We are trying to create a community that gives enhanced academic opportunities," said Kuiken. "We have the Honors Program, and we have the Barre Program, but the two are not mutually exclusive."

Kuiken explains that there are key differences between this program and the Honors Program. The Honors Program not only focuses on the academic aspect, but it also looks at leadership development and community service. The Barre Scholar Program, on the other hand, stresses solely high academic achievement, and to qualify, it requires students to maintain an overall

3.8 GPA in high school.

McLaughlin claims that many students apply to Honors that do not have the necessary community service.

"These are great students that would have been great additions to Wilkes, and they didn't find their home in the Honors Program," said McLaughlin. "It is a way of giving those students a home here as well and not losing out on the chance to invite them here to Wilkes."

According to McLaughlin, these students would not have been able to fit into the small Honors cohorts, which are now capped at 40 students per year. Regardless, there are still quite a few benefits for students in the Barre Scholar Program.

"The Barre Program will have additional research groups, academic-related work-study and mentoring opportunities with faculty members," said Kuiken. "They still get special opportunities to develop networking skills that will take them to their next level when they graduate."

Further, McLaughlin mentioned that students involved in this program will be able to apply for Honors courses if there

are seats available when they get to register. However, they do not get to register early like the Honors students.

While the Barre Scholar Program is currently open to incoming first-year students in Fall 2021, this does not mean that current students and those in the Honors Program will not be able to apply. There is simply no option being provided at the moment for other students to become involved.

Kuiken revealed that he does not want to cultivate an elitist environment with the Barre Scholar Program.

"This type of attitude can create exclusion," said Kuiken. "I don't want to give a sense to other students or a sense to the Barre scholars themselves that they are somehow better or more advanced."

Although the program does not come with any scholarships upon admission, a perk is that students can win the Isaac Barre Prize during their graduation year.

The Isaac Barre Prize is awarded to a student in each of the six colleges around graduation time. Professors from each of the schools will nominate students who


are examples of outstanding academic achievement.

Neha Metgud, a current honors student and junior biology major, said that since the Honors and Barre Programs have different goals in mind, she does think it is fair for those who are already Honors students.

"This looks like a good opportunity for Wilkes students who are not in the Honors Program to explore their interests and move on to do some incredible things," said Metgud.

Honors student Jennifer Boch, who is a history and international relations double major, expands on these ideas and notes that there appears to be a distinction between the two programs.

"The Barre Scholar Program is much more academically focused with higher academic standards than the Honors Program actually," said Boch. "Honors is a small-knit group, and this new program will help keep that sense of community and benefit while also providing better access to opportunities for more students."

 @wilkesbeacon  
Sara.Ross@wilkes.edu

# Provost search nears conclusion as finalists visit campus

By Genny Frederick  
Asst. News Editor

This past week, the Wilkes University community welcomed four provost candidates to campus as the search for a new provost moves toward its conclusion. The campus visits allowed the campus community to meet potential candidates and offer input into the final decision.

The search for a new provost began in November 2020, when the Provost Search Committee met with search consultants to begin advertising the open position at Wilkes. The Provost Search Committee is a group of four members of Wilkes faculty, two administrators, one staff member and two students. Since the winter and into the spring, the committee has been working to gain a pool of applicants and then narrow that pool to find the best set of final candidates.

"The provost represents and works with so many campus constituencies that it is important that there be a breadth of viewpoints and experiences represented on the search committee," said Dr. Paul Adams, search committee chair and Wilkes University vice president. "The members of the committee were selected because of their unique backgrounds and experiences."

The committee's work resulted in the selection of the four candidates who visited Wilkes from April 6 to 9. These candidates included Dr. Kathy Cooke, Dr. Manyul Im, Dr.

David Ward and Dr. Catherine Wehlburg. Cooke, the first candidate to visit last week, applied for the provost position from her position as the founding dean of the Honors College and professor of history at the University of South Alabama.

Im, the second candidate who visited last week, is currently the University of Bridgeport's interim provost and vice president of academic affairs.

The third candidate, Ward, is the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

The last visit of the week was from Wehlburg, who is currently a senior fellow with the American Association of Colleges and Universities.

Adams explained what the Committee looked for in the candidates.

"In reviewing applications, the search committee identified candidates who can advance the university's academic excellence; advance financial stability; work effectively to support faculty governance; strengthen campus relationships; embrace and support initiatives aimed at diversity, equity and inclusion; foster student success and mentoring; and be a good partner with the president," Adams said.

While visiting Wilkes, the four candidates attended in-person interviews as well as an online forum with the entire Wilkes community.

"We've been thrilled that we could bring our four finalists to campus so that they could

interact directly with our students, faculty and staff," Adams said. "We are blessed that we picked the prettiest time of the year to have our finalists visit campus."

The online forum held for each of the candidates allowed students and faculty to ask the candidates questions about their experiences, what they could bring to Wilkes and anything else of concern. The forums had large turnouts over Zoom, and faculty filled the time allotted with questions. However, the forum was not just one-way questioning. Toward the end of the hour, the candidates were invited to ask questions to the faculty members in attendance.

The communal effort of the Wilkes community throughout the provost visits was noted by those who attended the forums.

Colleen Garrison, office assistant for the environmental engineering and earth sciences department, reflected on the forums.

"I appreciate the opportunity to see the candidates and listen to their viewpoints and experiences," Garrison said. "I feel as though each candidate provided an interesting overview of their career and elaborated on their decision to apply for the provost position at Wilkes. Each candidate described their background and had a great deal of professional and academic experience. Faculty and staff asked excellent questions, which the candidates answered with respect and professionalism."

Michael Baker, junior environmental

engineering major, explained his thoughts after attending the forum.

"The provost search shows an impressive effort by Wilkes University to find a suitable candidate that will not only improve upon the culture of Wilkes University but also improve the university as a whole," Baker said. "The candidates so far have been so genuine in their answers and how they want to create change for the better, such as more safety for professors' jobs. It is a very exciting time to be a student and watching a change in provost and going to the Zoom calls to see the care taken in the selection process."

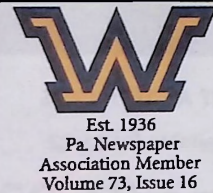
The current interim provost, Dr. Terese Wignot, addressed her year in the position and the future provost.

"I have been honored to serve as the interim provost, last year with Dr. Adams and this year with Dr. (Greg) Cant," Wignot said. "COVID has provided both challenges and opportunities for us these past two years, but we at Wilkes have always strived to put our students first. I am very confident that President Cant, with input from the Provost Search Committee and the Wilkes community, will choose a provost that continues to be student-focused and dedicated to our core values."

The final decision of the next provost will be announced in mid-April, and the new appointee will take office in July.



@wilkesbeacon  
Genevieve.Frederick@wilkes.edu



# THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow.

By Your Name Here  
Staff Writer



This could be you!

If you have a passion for writing,  
design or photography, join us!

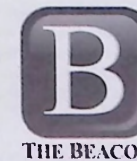


## THE BEACON HIRES: WRITERS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, EDITORS

Contact:

TheWilkesBeacon@wilkes.edu

First-year students and all majors welcome!



## Student Body President election underway between Payne, Glidden

By Sara Ross  
Co-News Editor

Every April, Student Government runs elections and nominations for a new Executive Council, and this includes a race for the new student body president. The presidential candidates in the running are two junior class members, Secretary Lexi Payne and Representative Justin Glidden.

Student Government's Parliamentarian Bobby Wagner has been in charge of coordinating the nominations for the election and explained the process.

"In order to be nominated as student body president, the individual must have served at least one year in Student Government, whether that be as a class representative, class officer or as president of one of the Mega Councils," said Wagner.

Wagner explained that the Student Government General Board is who nominates the presidential candidates through a two-week process. Then, voting is opened to the entire student body the following week. The Mega Council presidents are nominated by their respective general boards in the same way.

Both Glidden and Payne were selected by their fellow Student Government members, and for the past few weeks, they have been working toward launching their campaigns. Payne and Glidden, along with others running for board positions, have been posting on their social media accounts to announce their candidacy.

However, either way the election decides to turn, Glidden claims it is a friendly competition and that he and Payne are both great candidates for the position.

Current Student Body President Kevin Long agrees with this statement and is happy that he was provided with the chance to serve the student body and is now able to pass on the role.

"Democracy is a beautiful thing and allows us to change the direction of our leadership," said Long. "The two candidates running are leaders that will bring a new role perspective to the role and serve the student body well, as we proceed hopefully through the end of the pandemic affecting the world and society."

The presidential candidates share a few of the same plans for improving both

Student Government and the campus community, but ultimately, they both are hoping to make a positive impact.

Glidden revealed when and why he first decided to run for student body president.

"It wasn't until last year when the pandemic hit and we were facing challenging times that I felt encouraged to try to become president," said Glidden.

Glidden believes that there are many broken links within Student Government and campus, and he wants to see them resolved. He would like to start by focusing on getting clubs and organizations more involved, as he feels they are not always aware of the opportunities Student Government can provide them.

"For example, Student Government can offer funding for club events and activities," said Glidden. "I want to be able to get that message out there and how we are here to support them."

Another goal of Glidden's is to encourage student interaction and diversity at Wilkes. Being a sociology major, he recognizes the importance of cultivating an inclusive environment and having everyone involved on campus with events and activities.

Payne, on the other hand, aims to create an environment where students can grow, prosper and open a line of communication between the students and administration that has never been done before.

"I plan to serve Wilkes and its students by listening to the concerns of all individuals who are willing to voice their opinions to me," said Payne. "With this being said, I will take appropriate action in order to make a change."

According to Payne, she is not afraid to have hard conversations with administrative staff and tell them what students believe should be changed, even if there are disagreements and difficulties along the way. She claims she can roll with the punches and is open to learning.

Both candidates believe that their previous roles in Student Government have prepared them for their future roles and given them the foundation to be president.

Payne reveals how being a biology student and a resident assistant has allowed her to develop.

"I have learned to be thorough and pay attention to detail," said Payne. "Also, with time management, I need to schedule out my days. Otherwise, things

tend to pile up and spiral out of control if you let them. Some things take time, you can't learn everything overnight, and sometimes, it's okay to ask for help."

Other than the candidates, many students around campus have submitted their ballots for the Executive Council election.

One senior earth and environmental science and geology double major, as well as an active participant in past Student Government elections, Colin Ahrensfield, disclosed what he wants in a presidential candidate.

"What I would be looking for is someone that is actually willing to listen to what the student body wants and then acts on it," said Ahrensfield. "I am also looking for someone who can demonstrate some sort of leadership and explain to the student body why certain things were done the way that they were."

To Ahrensfield, there has been a lack of consistent communication in Student Government, and they need to do more to keep all students informed when it comes to decisions that impact the whole

student body. He believes access to this information should not be kept behind closed doors.

Other areas Ahrensfield is seeking changes include improvements to the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center and more green spaces around campus.

All finalized student votes for all candidates, not just for student body president, were due this past Monday on April 12, and Wagner provided further insight on how the process will go after all votes are received.

"Results should be released the day after voting closes at the very latest, if everything goes as planned," said Wagner. "We are more than looking forward to releasing the results, and we hope that each student has participated in choosing their future representatives of the Wilkes student body."

*Editor's Note: The results of the election were not released prior to The Beacon being sent to print.*



@wilkesbeacon  
Sara.Ross@wilkes.edu

### ZN PROPERTIES

ALL INCLUSIVE PREMIUM STUDENT APARTMENTS  
SINGLE ROOMS..... Doubles, Triples Available for 21-22

Student Housing 21-22  
Apartments and  
Mansion Style Living  
279 & 281 South River Mansions

165-167 West River Loft apartments...  
REGISTER NOW! WWW.ZNPROPERTIES.COM  
znpropertiesllc@gmail.com or call 570-592-3113

# Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have any events or artists to be shared? Contact life, arts & entertainment editor: [Emily.Cherkauskas@wilkes.edu](mailto:Emily.Cherkauskas@wilkes.edu)

## The importance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month with Title IX

By **Emily Cherkaukas**  
Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

*Editor's Note: This page contains references to graphic and potentially triggering themes and content.*

The month of April marks an important time of observation: raising awareness for sexual assault.

According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, the goal of Sexual Assault Awareness Month is to “raise public awareness about sexual violence, educate communities on how to prevent it and bolster prevention efforts throughout the year.”

Dr. Philip Ruthkosky, deputy Title IX coordinator and associate dean of student affairs, acknowledges the value of an effort like SAAM.

“The health and safety of our campus community is at the vanguard of our university’s values,” said Ruthkosky. “SAAM month is an opportunity for students, faculty and staff to come together to raise awareness, stimulate dialogue related to resources and prevention and demonstrate our commitment to looking out for each other and taking a stand against sexual violence.”

The goal of Wilkes’ Title IX Compliance Office is to make sure that any “red flags”

detected on campus are able to be observed and solved.

The office swears by and follows the Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which detail that “no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”

The process of Title IX is updated every year to accommodate the needs of the campus population.

The first step that happens is that someone will first report an incident. Next, the coordinators of the Title IX Office will explain all of the various options, support services and resources available to the individual reporting. With the exception of any dire situations that pose an immediate risk to the community, the coordinators will give the individual the freedom to explore their options.

The rest of the process pertains to the individual with detailed explanations and discussions being held in order to make the situation right.

In order to be aware of any incidents to report, anyone concerned can go to the Wilkes website and see a list of what can

be deemed as suspicious or dangerous behavior under the Title IX section of the website. If you or someone you know or is in a dangerous or uncomfortable position, there are important safety tips that students, faculty and staff can all follow.

Some of these tips include: Lock your car; be aware of your surroundings at all times; do not prop entrance doors open; travel with people you trust; avoid traveling in the dark alone; be cautious of beverages that you did not make or open and do not share drinks with anyone.

In awareness of sexual assault, it is always important to remember this tip: Clearly state and form your boundaries with others. Express your feelings whenever you are uncomfortable with a situation that you do not wish to further progress in. If you are on the other end and someone does not wish to pursue you, respect their boundaries and stop whatever activity makes them uncomfortable.

If someone is intoxicated or under the influence, do not engage in any sexual activity with them. Consent requires the right state of mind to be offered, and a drunken “yes” does not constitute that, as it impairs cognitive thinking. Additionally, consent must be clear and verbal — do not

assume silence means “yes.”

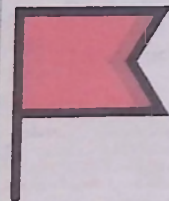
“I think Sexual Assault Awareness Month is important because it is a designated time every single year that raises awareness about sexual violence world-wide and gives us an opportunity to educate our campus community on how to prevent it,” said Samantha Hart, Title IX coordinator.

For any questions regarding Title IX, or if you would like to report an incident, there are certain contacts. Students can report to Ruthkosky at [Philip.Ruthkosky@wilkes.edu](mailto:Philip.Ruthkosky@wilkes.edu); faculty, staff and visitors can reach out to Kristin Pitarra, human resources director, at [Kristin.Pitarra@wilkes.edu](mailto:Kristin.Pitarra@wilkes.edu). Additionally, anyone is able to reach out to Hart at [Samantha.Hart@wilkes.edu](mailto:Samantha.Hart@wilkes.edu).

“We have worked very hard to make sure that we are not only complying with the letter of Title IX’s law, but also that we are embodying the spirit of it,” said Hart. “It’s extremely important that our campus community is confident in our responses to reports of sexual harassment and sexual misconduct, and we are always striving to better our policies, procedures and resources.”



[Emily.Cherkauskas@wilkes.edu](mailto:Emily.Cherkauskas@wilkes.edu)  
Graphic by Emily Cherkaukas



## Noticing red flags?

Be aware of any dangerous or suspicious situations.

Keep yourself and others  
safe from harm!

For any dire situations:

# CALL 911!

Contact Title IX:

[Samantha.Hart@wilkes.edu](mailto:Samantha.Hart@wilkes.edu) ; Coordinator

[Philip.Ruthkosky@wilkes.edu](mailto:Philip.Ruthkosky@wilkes.edu) ; Student Coordinator

[Kristin.Pitarra@wilkes.edu](mailto:Kristin.Pitarra@wilkes.edu) ; Faculty/Staff Coordinator

Contact Public Safety:

(570) 408-4999

# Simple and sweet: Moody Foodie's mixed berry smoothie bowl

By Anna Culver  
Staff Writer

*This recipe is super simple and easy to make. You can change it up to suit your tastes at any time, giving you the freedom to choose any ingredients that fit the season or mood.*

**Ingredients:**  
**Smoothie Bowl:**  
Frozen Mixed Berries  
Ripe Banana  
Yogurt, your choice of flavor  
Protein Powder (Optional)


**Toppings:**  
Blueberries  
Granola  
Honey

**Directions:**  
Microwave berries for 20 seconds, allowing them to soften.  
Blend all of your ingredients. Make sure everything is mixed and blended together well.

Add your choice of desired toppings that for some extra flavor and texture. You can also add a drizzle of honey as a final touch for some extra sweet little bites.

**Additional Notes:**  
Chia seeds or peanut butter are two ingredients that can be added at any time, both of which allow for a great source of protein.  
Depending on how you want the consistency of the smoothie to be, ingredients are easily adjustable. If you want a smoothie bowl, try to not add too many liquid ingredients. You can have fun with plating the smoothie bowl by arranging different fruits and toppings in groups, unique patterns or overlapping designs.

*Allergies: Honey, dairy, fruit, granola and nuts*

 [Anna.Culver@wilkes.edu](mailto:Anna.Culver@wilkes.edu)  
Graphic by Anna Culver



The Beacon/Anna Culver

**This beautiful smoothie bowl offers a wide variety of ingredients that allow for a sweet and healthy dessert that can be eaten at any time of the day.**




## BEACON BUMPS

Each week, the Wilkes Beacon staff adds a song to their 2020-2021 Beacon Bumps playlist under Chris Gowarty's account on Spotify. Look below for this week's list of songs.



**Kirsten Peters**, Editor-in-Chief: No Summer Love - PEACH MARTINE  
**Sean Schmoyer**, Co-News Editor: You Get Me - Miavono  
**Sara Ross**, Co-News Editor: She's So Gone - Naomi Scott  
**Genny Frederick**, Asst. News Editor: Beyond - Leon Bridges  
**Maddy Kinard**, News Staff Writer: South - Hippo Campus  
**Emily Cherkaskas**, LA&E Editor: MONTERO (Call Me By Your Name) - Lil Nas X  
**Jordan Daniel**, Asst. LA&E Editor: Met Him Last Night - Demi Lovato ft. Ariana Grande  
**Breanna Ebisch**, Co-Opinion Editor: deja vu - Olivia Rodrigo

**Dylan Mehl**, Co-Opinion Editor: War Baby - Roddy Ricch  
**William Billingsley**, Asst. Opinion Editor: Data & Picard - Pogo  
**Ariel Reed**, Sports Editor: Nightstand - Justus Bennetts  
**Chris Gowarty**, Asst. Sports Editor: In One Ear - Cage the Elephant  
**Baylee Guedes**, Sports Staff Writer: What Am I - Why Don't We  
**Mia Walker**, Lead Designer: Dancing With The Devil - Demi Lovato  
**Steffen Horwath**, Staff Photographer: All the Debts I Owe - Caamp  
**Liz Cherinka**, Social Media Manager: Hey Lover! - Wabie



# Wilkes students organizing Dance Marathon charity fundraiser

## Raising money for the Children's Miracle Network with fun activities

By The Beacon LA&E Staff

Dance Marathon at Wilkes University is looking for students and faculty to get involved, show support and gather donations for the Children's Miracle Network.

The Children's Miracle Network is an organization that helps raise funds and awareness for 170 member hospitals that provide 32 million treatments to kids in the United States and Canada.

To raise awareness for the international cause and to gather donations, Dance Marathon will be hosting a series of events over the course of two weeks. Events will begin on April 12 and run until April 24.

Activities include friendly events, such as Kahoot, virtual dance classes, Instagram competitions, prizes and much more. Dance Marathon will be following COVID-19 procedures by practicing social distancing and sanitization guidelines throughout their timespans.

Dance Marathon will be raising money through Donor Drive for the Geisinger


Janet Weis Children's Hospital. The team is accepting donations through Donor Drive, which can be accessed by going to [events.dancemarathon.com](https://events.dancemarathon.com) and finding Wilkes' page with the search tool.

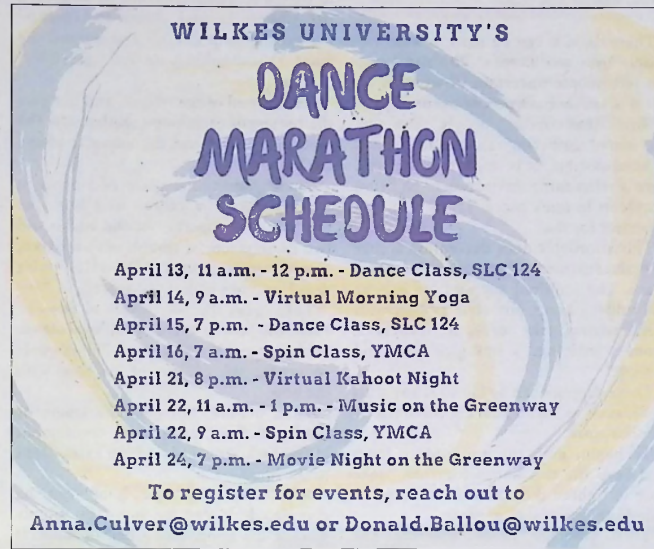
If you are interested in getting involved or attending events, contact Anna.Culver@wilkes.edu or at Donald.Ballou@wilkes.edu.

You can also follow and reach out to @dmatwilkesuniversity on Instagram or Dance Marathon at Wilkes University on Facebook.

If you are able to donate funds or donate items, the Dance Marathon team would be grateful for any support in the charity drive mission to help each child toward a deserved healthy recovery.

No sick child is left behind in illness. Dance Marathon is looking to gather local sponsors at events to promote local businesses while also supporting the cause.

 @wilkesbeacon  
Graphic by Emily Cherkaskas



WILKES UNIVERSITY'S

# DANCE MARATHON SCHEDULE

- April 13, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. - Dance Class, SLC 124
- April 14, 9 a.m. - Virtual Morning Yoga
- April 15, 7 p.m. - Dance Class, SLC 124
- April 16, 7 a.m. - Spin Class, YMCA
- April 21, 8 p.m. - Virtual Kahoot Night
- April 22, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Music on the Greenway
- April 22, 9 a.m. - Spin Class, YMCA
- April 24, 7 p.m. - Movie Night on the Greenway

To register for events, reach out to  
Anna.Culver@wilkes.edu or Donald.Ballou@wilkes.edu

# Programming Board selling tickets for city staple R/C Theatres

By Judah Nicole Lyles  
Staff Writer

Since the pandemic began, one thing that people have relied on more has been media — more specifically, movies.

Whether through streaming services like Netflix and Disney+, or catching a special on TV, movies have kept people entertained. However, streaming services can never really replace the real deal — the movie theater. While one can buy a surround system and pop some popcorn, the experience of watching a movie when it first comes out cannot be replaced.

Whether it be the latest rom-com, or the latest installment of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, movie theaters are an essential part of how humans gain entertainment. Yet, since the pandemic has begun, movie theaters have suffered drastically in terms of ticket sales.

According to CNBC's Sarah Whitten, theaters have suffered even more than predicted.

"With just a few days before the end of the year, the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the film industry in 2020 is

clear and devastating. Ticket sales crumpled 80 percent to \$2.28 billion, a far cry from the second-best box office haul ever of \$11.4 billion in 2019," according to data from Comscore.

Movies 14, the only theater in Wilkes-Barre, also suffered from a decline in sales. However, the theater has partnered with Wilkes University's Programming Board in order to sell tickets to students at a reasonable price. For just \$3 each, students can purchase tickets to see any movie currently in theaters. According to R/C Theatres CEO Scott Cohen, they have them all.

"We're offering every movie that Hollywood is giving us, including the rare anime feature 'Dragon Slayer,' so Wilkes-Barre is special," said Cohen. "Hollywood has run for the hills because they do not want to release things if they're not going to make maximum profit. However, we have everything that's coming down the pipe, including 'Voyagers,' 'Mortal Kombat,' 'Wrath of Man' and 'The Quiet Place 2.'"

Keeping customers safe is also a priority for R/C Theatres, as they have extensive measures in place in order to ensure that safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"R/C Theatres is a part of the Cinema Safe trade union. As a minimum, masks are required, except when you're in your seat and eating popcorn and soda. We have special cleaning machines that go around between every showing, and all the staff is required to be wearing a mask. We are doing private rentals for all who are concerned about sharing the theater with others," said Cohen.

What makes a movie theater different now is that, according to Cohen, everyone looks in one direction and six feet apart. R/C Theatres hired an air quality company — the same company that tests government buildings. Due to the huge volume of air in the theater, particles easily go up into the air system and into the outside world, allowing for easy circulation.

Programming Board President Joey Langdon believes that opportunities like these are essential to keep students engaged and happy on campus.

"I think it's important that students have opportunities like these in the midst of the pandemic," said Langdon. "Back when this (the pandemic) first started — and even now — everyone was stuck in their home, so getting the opportunity to finally get outside

and do something while still being safe and cautious is really good for mental health, and it kind of feels like being normal again in a way."


Both Langdon and Ellie Friess, Programming Board's small events chair, recommend a popular movie choice.

"I have heard good things about the 'Godzilla vs. Kong' movie, so I plan on seeing that one soon," said Friess. "Although their current movie selection is a bit limited, there is sure to be a movie showing that anyone can enjoy."

Langdon had already seen the movie and highly recommended it.

"I personally saw it ('Godzilla vs. Kong') already and thought it was a really good movie," said Langdon.

Ticket reservations will be held online via a Google form, and students will be able to reserve two tickets at a time per week. Tickets can be picked up at the info desk in the SUB. The last day for reservations will be May 10, and the last day to pick up tickets is May 14.

 @wilkesbeacon  
Judah.Lyles@wilkes.edu

# Liz's Craft Column: Personalized welcome "home" sign

By Liz Cherinka  
Social Media Manager

These days, it can be hard to welcome people into our homes. The pandemic has left people uncertain of whether or not it is safe to have people over.

Now that more people can be vaccinated, gathering can start to go back to semi-normal. It is important that you have a welcoming environment to bring people in to one's space. This home sign is perfect for that.

This affordable door decoration is sure to make anyone feel welcomed into your space. The required supplies are a large embroidery hoop, any style ribbon with metal wiring, fake leaves or flowers, a "home" lettering, a hot glue gun and scissors.

These supplies can be found at any craft store, such as Joann Fabrics, Michaels or a dollar store.

To begin, grab the embroidery hoop and keep the two hoops together. Make sure to tighten the size adjuster to make sure both pieces stay in place.

Then, grab the "home" lettering. The examples use a one piece metal lettering purchased at the Dollar Tree, but craft stores sell individual letters and one piece letters as well. Hot glue the lettering in any preferred orientation onto the hoop.

The door decoration is already coming into place in one simple step.

Next, it is time to make the bow. Grab the ribbon and begin by making an "O" shape, and press it together in the middle to flatten it. Then, continue by wrapping the ribbon around down and behind the exiting loop and up and around the front, creating two "O" shapes.

shape, and press it together in the middle to flatten it. Then, continue by wrapping the ribbon around down and behind the exiting loop and up and around the front. This should create two crossed "O" shapes.

Cut the end of the ribbon, and hot glue the centers of each loop together. Use the metal pieces around the edges to shape the bow.


Cut an additional piece of ribbon to wrap around the center, and hot glue the two ends together in the back. Add two more pieces of ribbon onto the back coming down from behind as an extra detail, and hot glue those as well.

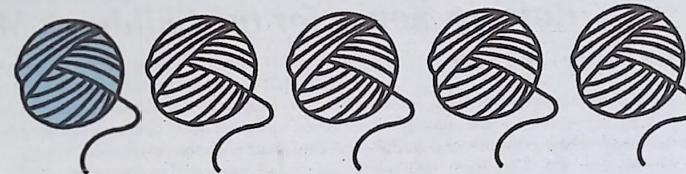
Then, grab the fake leaves or flowers. Place the bow in the desired location on the hoop, and hot glue it on. The example covers the size adjuster of the hoop with the bow.

Then behind, hot glue the leaves or flowers so they appear to be coming out of the back. This just adds an extra detail to the hoop.

After this step, the hoop can be completed. It can be hung by simply placing the hoop onto a nail or hook. If desired, another piece of the ribbon can be looped and hot glued in the back to hang from.

After these are done, feel free to hang and invite people into your home — being COVID-19 safe, of course.

 Elizabeth.Cherinka@wilkes.edu  
Graphic by Anna Culver



**Liz's Craft Rating:** One out of five yarn-balls. With easily affordable and available supplies as well as easy-to-follow steps, this quick craft is a cakewalk to make. Additionally, the customization ability will allow you to make this craft perfectly match the theme of your home.



Photos: The Beacon/Liz Cherinka



To create the ribbon:

- 1) Make an "O" shape with a ribbon, pressing the ribbon together to flatten it.
- 2) Continue by wrapping the ribbon around down and behind the exiting loop and up and around the front, creating two "O" shapes.
- 3) Cut an additional piece of ribbon to wrap around the center, and hot glue

For assembling the decoration:

- 1) Grab an embroidery hoop, making sure it stays intact. Using hot glue, attach your "home" lettering to any part of the sign you would like it to stick to.
- 2) Then, complete the steps for your ribbon bow piece, so it is ready to be attached to the fake leaves or flowers.
- 3) Grab your bunch of fake leaves or flowers, and attach your ribbon bow to the bunch with hot glue.
- 4) After the hot glue is dried on the leaves or flowers, hot glue the back of the bunch to anywhere on the embroidery hoop.
- 5) Once all of the glue is dried, your hoop sign is complete. Hang it up anywhere you like to make your home atmosphere even more welcoming

# HPSC holds cake and cupcake decorating contest on social media

## Adding some sweetness to your timeline with tantalizing treats

By Liz Cherlnka  
Social Media Manager

The Honors Program Student Committee is hosting a cake/cupcake decorating contest for members of the Wilkes community. The contest runs until April 30, and submissions can be submitted to @wilkeshonors on Instagram.

The contest comes with prizes, with first place receiving a \$50 Amazon gift card, and the two runners-up each receiving \$25 Starbucks gift cards.

Students can choose to either decorate a cake or cupcakes for the contest.

The HPSC also hosted a pumpkin carving contest during the fall semester.

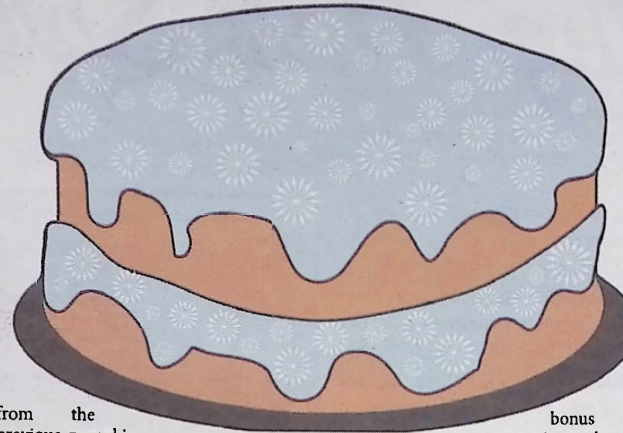
According to Kaelin Hughes, the HPSC's director of marketing, "With the amount of submissions we received last semester with the pumpkin carving contest, we thought it would be a good idea to do something along those lines again. Hence, cake decorating."

Hughes hopes that the contest goes as well as, if not better, than the last one did.

"This is a great incentive to treat yourself with cake and have an opportunity to win something from it," said Hughes.

Jen McLaughlin, Honors program office assistant, agrees. She says the bonus is that you can eat your submissions.

Kaitlyn Falco, president of the HPSC also says that inspiration for the contest came



from the previous pumpkin contest. bonus of winning and getting

"A few of us love baking, so we thought this would reach a different audience of people," said Falco. "We try our best to cater to all different interests."

The variety in interests is a perfect way to be inclusive with activities, especially when it comes to social media contests.

"We always try to have at least one fun, creative outlet on Instagram a month for students to unleash their creativity and unwind," said McLaughlin. "The added

prize hopefully only sweetens the pot." Events around campus are a great way to relieve stress and enjoy the semester.

"We hope that from this event, students will have an opportunity to take a break from the stress of school and have fun baking and decorating a cake and cupcakes," said Falco. "We also hope to get submissions from everyone."

The contest is open to all students, so anyone is welcome to make a submission. McLaughlin notes that over half of the

current submissions are from non-Honors Wilkes students.

"We welcome and encourage all Wilkes students to join in the fun, decorate a cake or some cupcakes and maybe win," said McLaughlin. "What we hope comes out of this is a little unwinding, a little fun, a little break from school and a lot of happy bellies."

McLaughlin continued, "There are three prizes to be won, cake to be eaten and memories to be made."

Despite the difficulties from the COVID-19 pandemic, HPSC is not being let down from these events.

"It has been difficult planning events during the pandemic, but I think we have been successful," said Falco. "This has definitely forced us to think outside of the box and create some new, fun events."

Hughes echoed Falco's sentiments. "Our process of planning events has been a little tough," said Hughes. "It's hard to try and not repeat events that other clubs have done, while also trying to come up with something original to draw students in. Despite that, I think that the HPSC has done a great job working together to golf light-hearted and fun events to ease the stress that the pandemic has placed upon everyone."

Elizabeth.Cherlnka@wilkes.edu  
Graphic by Anna Culver

@thewilkesbeacon  
Jordan.Daniel@wilkes.edu

# Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International sells dove pins

By Jordan Daniel  
Asst. Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International has begun their annual Dove Pin Fundraiser. The pins can be purchased for \$1 through the university's online store before the fundraiser ends on April 16.

"This year, we decided to start our CPFI dove pin fundraiser on March 31," said Maryann Chapin, a P3 pharmacy student. "Usually, it takes place in the fall after the pharmacy and nursing students receive their white coats. However, due to COVID and delays, we felt it was better to start the dove pin fundraiser in the spring semester."

Although the pins are usually advertised for pharmacy and nursing students, anyone is welcome to go to the online store and purchase a pin. The pins were bought in bulk from a company based in Nebraska called the Oriental Trading Company.

"On average, 30 to 40 people purchase a pin, especially since they are priced at \$1," said Kirsten Mascaritola, a P2 pharmacy student. "Since our current fundraiser is online through the Wilkes store, we are not sure how many people purchased a pin this year. I remember during my P1 year, it was the very first pin I purchased for my white coat, so the pin holds a special meaning for me."

When a person orders a pin, they have the option for it to be distributed either in-person or delivered to them with an additional \$3 shipping fee. However, if someone is interested in receiving their pin in-person, they will receive an email with the details at a later date.

According to Mascaritola, "A former president of CPFI thought of this fundraiser. They thought it would provide a great message for what CPFI stands for: Peace, love and hope."

CPFI chose the shape of the pin to be a dove because it aligns with their message as a club.

"The dove mainly represents peace, love and hope, which is especially a great message today with the hard times brought on through the COVID-19 pandemic," said Mascaritola. "I find it's a helpful reminder that there is hope and light at the end of the tunnel."

CPFI is known for their wide range and history of volunteer work. In the past, they volunteered at places in the community, such as St. Stephen's Episcopal Church's Free Clinic and the St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen. They are planning to volunteer at a COVID-19 vaccine clinic in the future.

"Our mission is to serve Christ and the world through pharmacy by working to help the community and explore all areas of pharmaceutical practice," said Christina Hanna, who is serving as the president-elect

for CPFI and is a P2 pharmacy student. "We love being involved within the community and helping others."

There are other fundraisers that CPFI has done in the past. One of them being a mask fundraiser, which occurred last semester. The benefits were used to support the SHINE program of Luzerne County. CPFI plans to continue the mask fundraiser later on this semester after their pin fundraiser closes.

For more information about the Dove Pin Fundraiser, email Chapin at maryann.chapin@wilkes.edu or check out the announcement posted on Wilkes Today and Nesbitt News. Additionally, information about the dove pins and their future fundraisers can be found on the club's Instagram profile @wilkescpfi.

@thewilkesbeacon  
Jordan.Daniel@wilkes.edu

# Spring Has Sprung

**By Jordan Daniel**  
Asst. Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor


Spring is here on campus, and it came quicker than some thought it would. Hopefully, the sunshine will keep making an appearance for the rest of the school year.

Many students and faculty members are taking advantage of this beautiful weather. Although students and faculty still need to follow the social distancing regulations and wear their face masks, a lot of students have recently begun sitting with their friends to do their work or just hang out at the tables in

the Greenway and outside of Starbucks.

Also, some professors do not want their students to miss out on the spring weather because they are stuck inside a classroom. Therefore, a few of them are finding ways to have their classes outside, so everyone can enjoy the sun and pretty landscape.

Spring will not be here for long, so enjoy the good weather and gorgeous trees and flowers in blossom while they are here.

 @wilkesbeacon  
Jordan.Daniel@wilkes.edu



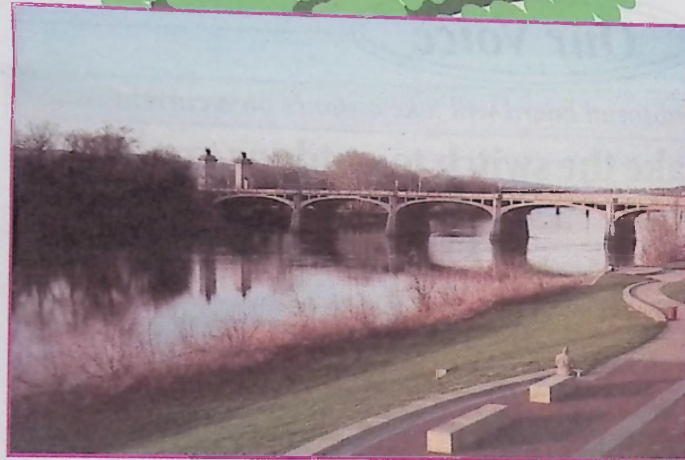
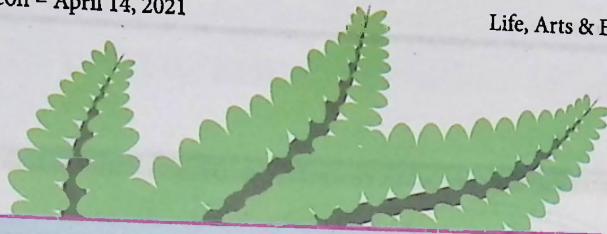
Above: These delightful yellow flowers can be seen nearly everywhere on campus. They are pictured amongst blue pinwheels by the flagpole on the Greenway. The blue pinwheels are sponsored by Luzerne County Child Advocacy and co-sponsored by Wilkes University Police to bring awareness to child abuse prevention.



Students can walk across the River Commons Bridge, where not a cloud could be found on this blue sky day.

Below: Even as the sun sets in Wilkes-Barre, the view from the Susquehanna River still makes an impression.





**Above:** Students can enjoy the spring weather down near River Commons. Many people have been going down to the river to sit on the benches and enjoy the sun. Some have also been out walking along the side of the river or biking on the sidewalks as the warmer weather begins to take hold.

**Below:** The campus landscape has been looking lush over the past week. The grass is green, the trees are coming alive again and the flowers in the garden beds are in full bloom. Students have been seen taking advantage of the Greenway's landscape by studying at the tables near the Cohen Science Center or by laying out on blankets in the grass, all while practicing social distancing.



**Above:** A single cherry blossom flower sprouts, giving some new bright colors to Wilkes' campus landscape.

**Below:** Cherry blossom trees are present all along the sidewalks of the university's property and line students' walking paths to class. The cherry blossom petals fly in the wind during these warm spring months, and they are hard to miss due to their vibrant colors.



**Photos:** The Beacon / Steffen Horwath & Jesus Rios Serrano  
Steffen.Horwath@wilkes.edu  
Jesus.RiosSerrano@wilkes.edu

**Page Design:** The Beacon / Mia Walker  
Mia.Walker@wilkes.edu

# Opinion

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column? Contact the opinion editors: Breanna.Ebisch@wilkes.edu and Dylan.Mehl@wilkes.edu

## Editorial Staff

### 2020-21

#### MANAGERIAL STAFF

Editor-in-Chief - Kirsten Peters  
Adviser - Dr. Kalen Churcher

#### SECTION EDITORS

News - Sean Schmoyer  
Sara Ross  
LA&E - Emily Cherkauskas  
Opinion - Breanna Ebisch  
Dylan Mehl  
Sports - Ariel Reed

#### ASSISTANT EDITORS

News - Genevieve Frederick  
LA&E - Jordan Daniel  
Opinion - William Billingsley  
Sports - Christopher Gowarty

#### SECTION STAFF WRITERS

News - Madelynn Kinard  
Sports - Baylee Guedes

#### DESIGNERS

Lead Designer - Mia Walker  
Photographer - Steffen Horwath  
Social Media Manager - Liz Cherinka

Interested in joining or  
advertising in The Beacon?  
To learn more, contact:  
Kirsten.Peters@wilkes.edu or  
Kalen.Churcher@wilkes.edu

141 S. Main Street  
Clayton and Theresa Karambelas  
Media & Communication Center  
Wilkes University  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766  
Phone - (570) 408-5903  
www.thewilkesbeacon.com  
Socials: @wilkesbeacon



The Beacon  
Est. 1936  
Pa. Newspaper  
Association Member

## Our Voice

Each week, The Beacon's editorial board will take a stance on a current issue.

### Administration: Make the switch to outdoor graduation

On March 23, Dr. Paul Adams, vice president of student affairs, announced the university's plan to hold multiple in-person commencement ceremonies for the Classes of 2021 and 2020 in the McHale Athletic Center.

Although this announcement seems as though it would please two classes of Wilkes graduates, we here at The Beacon have found the plans to be not as exciting – or as thought-out – as they may have initially appeared.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals have been advised to avoid public gatherings inside. Yet, we have been able to return to some sense of normalcy, attending classes in-person, living in dorms and hosting sporting events.

So, what makes commencement different? After a year of adjusting to pandemic life, we could argue that it is common knowledge that outdoor events where individuals can social distance, continue to wear their masks and be afforded the luxury of fresh air (we do call it fresh for a reason) would be a better alternative to any indoor event that makes practicing safe COVID-19 guidelines a greater challenge.

However, despite the numerous options the university has to conduct multiple outdoor ceremonies, the decision was made to hold commencement indoors – and with little explanation and subpar communication from the administration as to their reasoning.

For current juniors and seniors, the re-designing of the Fenner Quadrangle to be a larger Greenway is not a distant memory. Yet, was the Greenway even considered as an

option for commencement?

What about either of Wilkes' turf fields: Schmidt Stadium and Bruggeworth Field? Are they not sufficient for an outdoor ceremony like numerous high schools have used for their graduations (even during COVID)?

Schmidt Stadium, in particular, has a considerable set of bleachers, which could house various small groups of family members for each graduate – masked and socially distanced. Guests could pre-register (a means for contact-tracing), and Wilkes could assign seats. Yes, write last names on pieces of paper and tape them to the bleachers – a tactic that dates back to elementary school.

Instead, Wilkes has decided that multiple indoor ceremonies broken up by school can only afford each graduate two tickets for those who would actually like to see graduates walk across the stage at the "in-person" ceremony. After years of hard work and likely some financial assistance from family members, graduates can only have two attendees at this momentous occasion. This neglects virtually any grandparent or sibling for any student who is fortunate enough to have two living parents.

Ironically, on the same date of March 23 that Wilkes students discovered their graduation plans, so did King's College students, as per The Citizens' Voice. Compared to our nine ceremonies, King's is offering two ceremonies at the Mohegan Sun Arena on May 16, where each graduate will receive four tickets. Somehow another school in Wilkes-Barre can manage more than two tickets and a smarter


graduation plan – even indoors.

Yet, on April 1, Wilkes Athletics made a startling announcement: An updated spectator policy. Previously, attendees were not allowed at sporting events; however, each student-athlete who plays an outdoor sport has been provided with three tickets for each home event until seating capacity is reached.

Three is a magic number – at least for athletics. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for commencement. Perhaps if one of the three outdoor options mentioned was utilized, then each graduate could receive an additional ticket or two? (Because let's face it, a live stream is not the same.)

Or, better yet: Maybe a combination of outdoor venues is needed? Who's to say those graduating at 10 a.m. couldn't graduate on the Greenway while those graduating at 1:30 p.m. could graduate at Schmidt Stadium? We do acknowledge that all of this does take considerable preparation, and although we are grateful to have a ceremony at all, the Classes of 2021 and 2020 do not deserve anything less than Wilkes' best.

Administrators, faculty members, etc. may have attended multiple graduation ceremonies over the years, but for the Classes of 2021 and 2020, this is our only ceremony. For a university that claims to pride itself on celebrating the achievements of its students, Wilkes is missing the mark for not only one class of students but two, and it is time to consider a venue change.

 @wilkesbeacon  
TheWilkesBeacon@wilkes.edu

**Letter to the editor policy:** The Beacon welcomes letters to the editor from differing viewpoints. Letters must contain contact information, including name, city, state and phone number. Phone numbers will not be published but may be used for verification purposes.

**All letters to the editor must be sent using one of the following methods:**

Email: TheWilkesBeacon@wilkes.edu

Phone: (570) 408-2962 (Voicemail: 30 seconds or less, please.)

Mail: 84 West South Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18766 Attn: The Beacon

# What is in a name, anyway? Why we should rename Sullivan Hall

By William Billingsley  
Asst. Opinion Editor

Have you ever thought about the buildings on our campus and how they got their names? It is not something that we seem to really consider often — many of us just accept that these buildings were named for this or that person who was a fervent supporter or otherwise connected to the university.

And more often than not, that is the end of the story. Which is, for most intents and purposes, an absolutely fine practice. It is painfully routine, but it is fine.

But have you ever heard of the man that Sullivan Hall was named for? Gen. John Sullivan? I thought not. It is not a story that many historians would be able to tell you about, myself included.

In fact, Sullivan's star is so exceptionally dim that it is simply outshone by the great multitude of enigmatic figures in the Revolutionary War period, which, considering their legacies, is not awfully surprising.

What is more surprising, however, is the story behind Sullivan, and why a small private university in Northeastern Pennsylvania went out of its way to name this residence hall after someone who hailed from New Hampshire.

So, where exactly does this story begin? It begins at the Battle of Wyoming, all the way back in 1778. In the prelude to this battle, Col. Zebulon Butler led a small contingent of loyalists and Iroquois into the area, demanding that the patriot defenders surrender the local fortress. Instead of surrendering, patriot defenders began massing nearby in preparation for battle.

Seeing this, Butler then set fire to Fort Wintermute, feigning a retreat. Although the patriot militia leaders advocated caution, the thought of loyalists being left to their own devices in the countryside that they lived in filled many with a fair bit of trepidation.

This great trepidation was far more persuasive than waiting for reinforcements as their homes burned, after all. And so the patriots began pursuing Butler's force.

Of course, this was a trap. Butler had lured the patriot militia into an ambush: His Indian allies had been waiting on the left and right flanks — ensuring the patriots' defeat when the ambush began.

And by all accounts, this was an exceptionally devastating defeat for the

patriots, with some sources estimating that anywhere from 75-90 percent of the about 360 patriots being killed in the battle or escape. Unsurprisingly, Butler only lost a few soldiers.

As you may have noticed by now, Sullivan was nowhere to be found in this battle. No, Sullivan's role in all this stems solely from his role in the American retaliation, better known as the Sullivan Expedition in 1779.

For those who have never heard of this expedition, you are not alone. Some creative interpretations of the Sullivan Expedition have cast this retaliation in an absurdly positive light, especially in this particular area.

But make no mistake: The Sullivan Expedition was nothing more than a brutal scorched-earth campaign against the Iroquois.

In describing this particular campaign, the National Park Service states, "By the end of the expedition, Sullivan's army had destroyed over 40 villages and many isolated homes. They had destroyed at least 160,000 bushels of corn, and an untold number of other vegetables and fruit."

By the end of the campaign, over 5,000 Indians were displaced to Fort Niagara (in British-controlled Canada), and many would freeze or starve to death in the coming months as British resources were strained.

If this was not enough, Sullivan's Expedition spent so much time pushing their horses that his army actually had to put down a great number of them. So many, in fact, that the area became Horsesheds, N.Y., on account of the numerous horse skulls. This is a *real* place.

Truly macabre, to say the least.

Which brings me back to my original line of questioning: Why was Sullivan Hall named after a general who orchestrated and oversaw an unprecedented level of destruction and genocide?

Why did Wilkes decide to honor Sullivan's atrocities that were committed in the name of revenge when they acquired the building?

Even when we look at the historical record, Sullivan has no other connection to the area besides his expedition's connection to the Battle of Wyoming. This is rather unsurprising, given that he spent most of his life in ... New Hampshire.

But despite these questions, I must ask: Why leave Sullivan Hall as it is?

As a symbolic memory of Indian genocide, starvation and death? Or as an

ode to a twisted sense of patriotic vengeance for a war that ended 238 years ago?

Surely, we here at Wilkes are capable of better than that?

I'd like to think we are.

After all, as far as named buildings on campus go, Sullivan Hall is an extreme outlier.

To my knowledge, only one other building on campus is named for a military figure: The Stark Learning Center, after Adm. Harold Stark of the U.S. Navy.

Unlike Sullivan, Stark's 47-year career between 1899-1946 was rather straightforward. At the very least, there were no atrocities or scorched-earth campaigns being carried out. Furthermore, Stark actually hailed from Wilkes-Barre and spent the rest of his life nearby.

Naming a building in honor of such an illustrious Wilkes-Barre native is doing it right. Naming a building in honor of an outsider who had no real connection to the area and led a vicious scorched-earth campaign is decidedly not a great way to commemorate buildings.

To that end, I therefore propose that Sullivan Hall be renamed.

In so doing, Wilkes could expunge this bizarre outlier of vengeful patriotism and demonstrate great leadership and initiative in this process of redress.

What better way to show our student body how mindful and progressive our university really is by righting this wrong?

At this point, you might be wondering if I have any ideas for what this building should be renamed to. Luckily for all parties involved, I do have one suggestion. That suggestion?

Rename Sullivan Hall after me. Think about it. How many scorched-earth campaigns have I carried out against the Iroquois? Zero. How many horses have I had to put down because of sheer exhaustion? Surprisingly, also zero.

And think about how involved Sullivan could have possibly been in Wilkes-Barre in his lifetime if he spent his retirement in New Hampshire. Spoiler alert: Not at all involved.

But as for me? I have actually lived in Wilkes-Barre and even attended Wilkes, which I think ought to clearly put my name in the running. And again, no war crimes on my part!

Think about it: Billingsley Hall. I would say it has a nice, three-syllable (or four, if you include the 'hall' bit) ring to it, wouldn't

you agree?

Of course, I jest. But my absolutely legitimate suggestion of renaming Sullivan Hall after me helps illustrate the fact that the bar for this renaming process is not especially high.

Any single native from Wilkes-Barre that has or will be graduating from Wilkes has a more legitimate reason (not to mention, less controversial) for a hall to be named after them than an extraordinarily obscure Revolutionary-era general that was all too happy to carry out his dreadful expedition against the Iroquois.

And in fact, all of our named buildings are rather boring in nature, with all of the usual suspects: Various people who had a lasting influence on campus vis-à-vis personal impact (or copious amounts of money), various figures who were historically relevant for the campus or honoring city natives like Stark.

But of course, I have not forgotten about the Waller Halls, which, according to the relevant description on the university website, was "named in honor of Charles Waller, a Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Wilkes College."

I will not pretend to know how or why this particular chairman was so important, but I must concede that his accomplishment in having a hall named after him is rather impressive, casting a long shadow over the accomplishments of his successors.

Ultimately, renaming Sullivan Hall to something actually meaningful and connected to the university would be an excellent way to recognize the mistakes of that past administration.

And as mentioned earlier, the possibilities are quite literally endless. The student body could actually be engaged in a thoughtful and meaningful way to put forward name suggestions, rather than relying on committees with questionable agendas and foregone conclusions by the administration.

And if such public discourse proves to be too intimidating of a suggestion, there are still plenty of options.

How many esteemed faculty have taught here over the decades? And just how many alumni have gone on to make something of themselves since graduating?

Do we really have to settle for Sullivan of all people?

I hope not. We are better than that.



@wilkesbeacon  
William.Billingsley@wilkes.edu

# “Bad Trip” Review: Start to finish full of deserved laughs

By Matt Matrisciano  
Staff Writer

Prepare for the road trip of a lifetime as we join comedians and actors Eric Andre, Lil Rel Howery, Tiffany Haddish and a cast of random people who do not even know they are in a film, in Netflix's new original prank movie, “Bad Trip.” In this Borat-like road trip comedy, best buds Chris Carey (Andre) and Bud Malone (Howery) are two blue-collar workers who have never left their Florida hometown.

That may change, however, when Chris' high school crush, Maria Li (Michaela Conlin) comes into his place of work and invites him to her art gallery in New York City. Chris realizes that this may be his only chance to end up with the woman of his dreams, so he enlists the reluctant but loyal Bud to steal his recently jailed sister Trina's (Haddish) car, so they can journey up the east coast.

What the duo did not expect was that Trina had recently escaped from prison. Upon hearing that her brother and his friend stole her car, Trina hops in a stolen police cruiser and follows them on a

revenge mission. Meanwhile, Chris and Bud are living life to the fullest while wreaking havoc on the lives of real-life civilians. No one is safe from the path of destruction and hilarity that the comedic duo and their pursuer create in this hysterical spin on romantic comedies. Everything from disturbing people trying to enjoy a beer to sneaking into a gorilla habitat at a zoo is up for grabs in “Bad Trip.”

If you are familiar with Andre's rise to fame, you should already know what you are getting into when you press play. If you have a raunchy, limit-pushing sense of humor, you may already be a fan of his work. Whether it is visibly annoying guests on his satirical late-night talk show, “The Eric Andre Show,” or causing mayhem in the streets of New York City with his pranks, Andre is willing to do absolutely anything for a laugh, and that shows in “Bad Trip.”

The actors are what make movies like this. A cast of pranksters who are willing to go all out on pranks is a must when it comes to these types of films. Andre was predictably masterful in that sense. I am

impressed that he kept a straight face while pulling off his antics, because I was red from a combination of laughter and secondhand embarrassment. I would say Andre stole the show, but it was clearly already his from start to finish.

That being said, Howery also deserves a tip of the hat for his performance as the nervous and goofy Bud Malone. His character's awful luck and lack of confidence are some of the most laugh-inducing components of the movie.

Haddish should receive a ton of credit for her role as Trina, the escaped convict sister. Her angry, vengeful demeanor led to some iconic scenes, from aggressively flirting with a cop to ripping the door clean off a police car while confused civilians watched from the sidewalk in shock.

In a movie like this, the story is secondary. It is only there to string the series of pranks and mishaps together. That being said, the writers did a great job creating a story with some weight to it, making it easier to poke fun at the romantic comedy genre.


If you are a fan of Andre, or at least of this type of humor, I could not recommend this movie enough. It is nothing short

of hysterical. The pranks that the trio perform throughout the movie, along with the reactions of the victims, are a riot.

However, be warned. This movie, like most of Andre's work, is an acquired taste. If you are not a fan of these prankster type comedies, this one is certainly not for you. This movie's sole purpose is to make you laugh hysterically from start to finish. So, if that is not your cup of tea, steer clear.

This is the kind of movie you could watch five times and still laugh at uncontrollably. It is the perfect antidote to a bad day. If laughter is the best medicine, then “Bad Trip” is a pharmacy. It has gotten solid reviews so far, including a nod of approval from the man behind “Borat” himself, Sacha Baron Cohen.

The film currently has a 74 percent on Rotten Tomatoes, which makes sense considering the reviews are sure to vary. As someone who lives for movies like this, I give Andre and his merry band of pranksters a fantastic 8.5/10, and I cannot wait to see more of his antics in the future.

 @wilkesbeacon  
Matthew.Matrisciano@wilkes.edu

# A four-day weekend? Simply not enough for spring break

By Rudy Urenovich  
Staff Writer

Well, fellow Wilkes University students and faculty, the Easter season has come and gone, and our next extended break is now summer vacation.

I wish I could say I feel well-rested after the holiday, but that would be a lie. I am guessing that many of you feel the same.

Now, I understand this school year has been anything but normal, but this semester has been just as challenging and taxing, if not more, than before COVID-19.

Personally, I would have liked a little more time off for Easter to make up for the lack of an actual spring break.

I am aware that we had a late start to this semester, and that it was to ensure safety precautions were effective, but to be honest, I would have given up that last week in January for a real spring break in a heartbeat.

This time of year for me, as it probably is for all of you as well, is chaotic, which is putting it mildly. Spring is the time when I set the standard for the whole rest of the year.

As college students, springtime is when we finish up one academic year and prepare for a new one. We do all this on top of current classes and work responsibilities.

These days, things are being done virtually, from classes to club meetings. In some cases, this is beneficial and makes balancing things more manageable.

But in others, having to keep track of totally digital, hybrid and in-person meetings can make a busy schedule all that more difficult to balance.

An extended break was necessary — we need to take time to focus on ourselves and just relax. If anything, a break would allow us to figure out how to balance and prioritize our crazy schedules.

Having an extended “mini-break” where everyone would be able to go home, if they chose to, and having COVID-19 testing before and after departing campus could have been done. Meetings with teachers and advisors

remotely could have been done easily over break.

This is the time in the semester when work gets piled on us rapidly, and it is easy for us to get buried, with no way out from under it.

In normal years, a spring break gives us a chance to clear our heads, and it allows us to go back to school with a clearer mind a greater ability to focus. This refresher not only allows us to perform better

academically, but it also aids our mental health.


This year, I had about two days out of the four given for break where I did not do a single thing school-related.

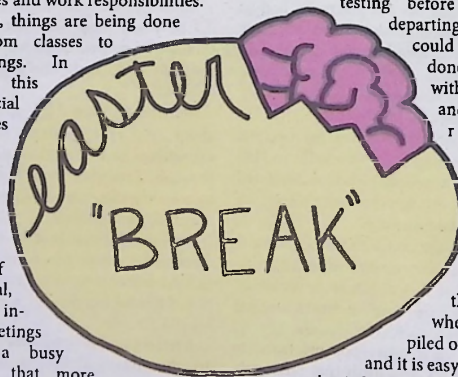
However, even though the break was shorter, I did still have to complete schoolwork.

I am not complaining about this, because I know in the “real world” we will rarely get reprieves. However, with a longer break, other students and I could have spaced out our homework and completed it more comfortably and efficiently.

I would have no problem having to do schoolwork over break if said break was the length of a normal spring break. And I will just say it.

Alas, spring break, Easter break, or whatever you want to call it, has passed. And we will just have to wait and see where we are as a school and a country a year from now before we can expect our breaks — and our mental health — to return to us.

 Rudy.Urenovich@wilkes.edu  
Graphic by Zoey Rosensweet





# Drake album review, part three: "Nothing Was the Same" 9.3/10

By Dylan Mehl  
Co-Opinion Editor

"Nothing Was the Same" – 9.3 out of 10  
Drake's third studio album dropped on Sept. 24, 2013, almost two years after his second album, "Take Care." Coming off a very successful album and tour, many were wondering how Drake would follow-up the project, and he did not disappoint.

"Nothing Was the Same" sold 658,000 copies in its first week and is now RIAA certified four times platinum. The album features a much more emotionally intelligent Drake, discussing success and relationships yet again but from a more mature perspective.

"Started From the Bottom" and "Hold On, We're Going Home" were both certified six times platinum as songs off of this project.

"Tuscan Leather," the introductory track to this album, may be the most hard-hitting of them all, as the six god explodes on the beat for exactly six minutes and six seconds. Drake is clearly rapping with a purpose, as he discusses reaching the top of the mountain. While this has been a common theme through Drake's music, there is a certain swagger he carries on this intro track unlike any other we have seen from him in the past.

Although he is at the top, Drake reminds us he is far from perfect on the next song, "Furthest Thing." The artist shows off a more relatable side, discussing insecurities within oneself through some above average singing. The chorus of this song is one that has the potential to be stuck in your head all day.

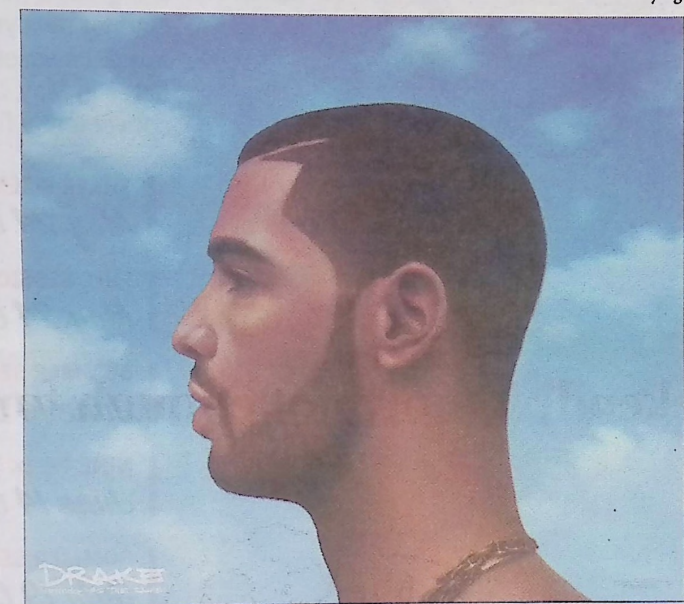
"Started From the Bottom," the third track on the album, highlights Drake taking a look back on where he started. Despite popular belief, the artist did not have a silver spoon in his mouth, and this song tells the story of his struggle. Well, at least that was what it was supposed to do. This track does not go as deep as it could have, and Drake's bars are okay and repetitive.

In the first of many songs that take inspiration from the Wu-Tang Clan, in Drake's "Wu-Tang Forever," we see the artist discuss both his relationship with the rap game and women in one song. The overall catchy song highlights the back-and-forth relationship Drake has with both, and features some soft vocals from the artist, along with solid rapping.

"Own It" has a clear continuation from the previous song, as Drake is now giving himself to the girl or the rap game. This song encloses the listener in the story and

features the very relatable idea of giving yourself to whatever or whomever you love. Drake's soft vocals set the tone beautifully for the song.

"Worst Behavior" shifts the mood, as Drake is once again reminiscing about the past and his relationship with his father. Drake's father was not around while Drake was a child, and this song almost serves as a note to his father discussing how he made it to the top of the rap game without him, and now he is on his worst behavior. The



raping and bars on this track are top notch, and we can once again hear real purpose in the artist's voice.

At this point, we know Drake likes to include conversations as mood-shifters and story-enhancers in his albums. "From Time" featuring Jhene Aiko may be the best example of this yet. This song is a conversation between Drake and an old flame discussing life, relationships and his career. Aiko's singing and Drake's rapping compliment each other on this track to portray the back-and-forth that ultimately leads to an adjustment in Drake's thought process.

In "Hold On, We're Going Home," we clearly see this new mentality takeoff, as Drake discusses the loyalty and commitment it takes to be in a healthy relationship. He

does this through the best singing we have ever seen from the artist, creating a track about love that is timeless. What makes this track so great is how it perfectly fits into the album and has beautiful stand-alone value. The themes are once again highly relatable to anyone who has ever been in love.

"Connect" shows the dark side of where this loyalty can lead you, as Drake is in a relationship where he is constantly being hurt and emotionally abused, but he continues to convince himself that staying

about an issue that many of us have faced in our lives: Anxiety. Yes, even Drake in his luxury lifestyle deals with anxiety, and he shares these issues with us through melodic singing.

It is refreshing to see an artist of Drake's magnitude discussing mental health issues and not just pretending that every day is perfect for him because he is rich and famous.

The final track of the album, "Found Cake/Paris Morton Music 2" featuring Jay-Z, has Drake and Jay-Z detailing a popular message among rappers in "gaining money not spending it." The two artists also encourage the younger generation to not make a living in the drug game. The rapping on this song is excellent from both, as the two show off again that they are an impressive combination.

The second part of the song features Drake putting the bow on the present that is this album. Like many of his other projects, he closes the album with a heart-to-heart with his fans, telling them that from now on nothing will be the same in his life due to the fame he has achieved.

At this point in his career and even to this day, Drake's closing song on the original version of the album will feature a message strongly relating back to the title of the project.

The two bonus tracks on the album are "Come Thru" and "All Me," spreading two very different messages.

"Come Thru" details a short story of Drake telling a girl to come over while she or he is in town and has great vocals from the artist.

"All Me" is about as high on the high horse as one can be, having Drake, 2 Chainz and Big Sean all discuss their success through strong rapping and bars with purpose.

"Nothing Was the Same" certainly feels like the artist's most complete project, and it features his most consistent storytelling/messaging to date. Drake once again shows off his ability to sing and rap while adding in a bit more R&B flavor.

Through three projects, we have certainly seen Drake mature as an individual, as he discusses relationships and his outlooks on life. What makes this project so great, however, is the artist discussing relatable issues and the struggles that many face.

Will Drake be able to keep this same maturing trend or will he revert back to his young cocky ways?

is the right thing to do. The chorus of this song completely hooks you and may have you randomly saying "swangin" throughout the day. This song is a great example of storytelling done through music.

An abrupt change of pace and mood comes in "The Language," as Drake goes back to discussing his elite lifestyle. While the change is very sudden and appears to be out of nowhere, the song is very catchy.

"305 To My City" features yet another conversation between Drake and a stripper. In this track, Drake is discussing the dancer's hustle and how her lifestyle is nothing to be ashamed of. The track is quite empowering and offers motivation to all to hustle to reach their goals. The beat and rapping impress in this simple story.

"Too Much" features Drake opening up

@wilkesbeacon  
Dylan.Mehl@wilkes.edu



Wherever you are.  
On campus or online.  
\$530 per credit.

## SUMMER

is a great time to lighten your course load for next year or catch up on missed classes. And with start dates in May, June or July, classes conveniently fit your summer plans.

**THREE-WEEK PRESESSION**

*May 24 to June 11*

**FULL SESSION**

*May 24 to Aug. 20*

**SUMMER SESSION I**

*June 14 to July 16*

**NINE-WEEK SESSION**

*June 14 to Aug. 17*

**SUMMER SESSION II**

*July 19 to Aug. 20*

Make an appointment with your advisor and visit [wilkes.edu/summer](http://wilkes.edu/summer).

Wilkes  
University

# Sports

## BASEBALL, from front

year I was close to getting it," said Indzonka. "Right before the second game, we were all talking about how cool it would be to get it against King's, but more importantly to sweep the series."

After not pitching on Saturday and following the postponement of the second doubleheader from Sunday due to weather until Monday, Indzonka earned the achievement over the course of two innings by facing eight batters and recording three strikeouts.

"(Indzonka) has always been a guy who we count on to close out games, and a career save record would validate how much guys trust him out on the mound late in games," said Gryboski.

For the series, Nick Malatesta and Darren Kerdesky would lead the Colonels at the plate, going 7-for-13 and 7-for-14, respectively. The two aided Wilkes in the middle of the lineup.

In the opening contest on Saturday, a triple from leadoff batter Michael Patrizio would set the tone for Wilkes' weekend. A two-out single to right field by Kerdesky would score Patrizio for the early 1-0 lead.

In the second inning, three singles in a row from Matt Reinert, Vinny Bobbin and Patrizio would load the bases for a three-run double to left-center by Dom Bayo, Wilkes' current stats leader with a .389 batting average overall.

The Colonels would tally one more run in the third inning when Brandon Reno brought in Kerdesky off of an RBI-single to left field for the 5-0 lead. Kerdesky, who went 4-for-4 in the first contest, singled to right during his at bat.

"The biggest thing for me has been having the right mindset before and during every at bat," said Kerdesky. "At the beginning of the season, I struggled a little because I still had some butterflies, but recently, I've been able to really lock in. Players have been getting more say in the structure at practice – mass fungos, more live at-bats, defensive drills off the pitching machine, how to have fun – but I don't believe our win streak has come purely from practice though. The spark has always been there, we just had to ignite it."

The Monarchs would tie the contest at five in the fifth inning, leaving the score equalized until the bottom of the bottom of the seventh, where a fielder's choice from Bryan Nifenecker would score Kerdesky on a King's shortstop error for the 6-5 walk-off.

JT Hibschan started the game for Wilkes; however, Jonathan Martens would come in for



The Beacon/Kirsten Peters

### Following Bryan Nifenecker's walk-off in the bottom of the seventh inning in game one, Colonels rushed to celebrate their first victory of four over King's.

the final two innings to earn the win in the first contest between the two Wilkes-Barre teams.

"I felt really comfortable with my two seam and my slider," said Martens. "I got two quick outs in the sixth, and I still felt confident in my pitches even though I walked three batters. The final inning, I had full intentions of shutting them down and getting our guys back to the plate. I was able to get us out of that inning 1-2-3 with the help of my teammates. Naturally, they did their job and put the final run up."

In game two, Tony Molitoris continued his hot streak from his previous two shutout contests against Stevens and FDU-Florham, earning his fourth win of the season in the 11-4 victory on Saturday.

"Pitching is coming around, and now we're executing and finally winning some games," said Molitoris. "I think the biggest thing is just having the same game plan each time I take the mound, and I've been doing well by just commanding the strike zone. I've gotten a lot of success from doing that in my career, so I'm not going to change anything now."

Nick Pronti would open the scoring barrage for Wilkes in the first inning by launching a two-run homer to left field, following a single to left field by Patrizio.

"(Patrizio) has been an outstanding leadoff hitter for us all year, and when I got up, he had already made his way to third," said Pronti. "With a 1-1 count, I was expecting the pitcher to be in the zone, and I saw my pitch low in the

zone and elevated it. It felt great off the bat and was a huge confidence booster to take a lead."

Patrizio would triple for his second time on the day in the second inning to increase Wilkes' lead to four. Two more triples from Pronti and Stone Wormuth in the third inning would add insult to injury with a 6-0 lead. Pronti would score on a sac-fly from Kerdesky, while Wormuth found his way across the plate on a single up the middle from Malatesta, who posted a .538 batting average on the weekend.

"We are in a great place right now in terms of team morale," said Malatesta. "Everyone is showing up every day having a good time and playing loose, which is definitely showing on the field. We have a great opportunity to play for a home playoff game, so we are going to continue working for that. As long as we play our game like we have been, we will be dangerous come playoffs."

Following two runs from King's, Wilkes would cap their scoring efforts with three runs in the fifth and two runs in the sixth. King's would post two runs in the eighth inning to finalize the score at 11-4.

Reno would record four noteworthy plays in the field at third base, acting as a thorn in the Monarchs' side in the first doubleheader.

According to Gryboski, "We look at the old motto, 'Pitching and defense wins championships,' so if we're going to be successful, we have to pitch and play defense."

On Monday, Wilkes would post two

victories, 5-2 and 6-3, in order to bring out their broomsticks for the four-game sweep.

Back-to-back singles from Malatesta and Reno in the second inning would allow Nifenecker and Patrizio to bring in RBIs.

King's would tie the score at two in the bottom of the inning; however, Wilkes would quickly answer with two runs in the third. A sac-fly from Reno would score Pronti, who reached on a two-base error by the right fielder, while Reinert would single to left field to bring in Kerdesky who was hit by a pitch.

Wilkes would post their final run of the contest in the fifth inning after Malatesta singled to left-center. Nifenecker would notch the RBI on a single through short.

Jack Gordon would earn the win in the third contest, and Martens would come in as a relief pitcher before Indzonka would earn his first save of the day.

"Our entire pitching staff has gotten better each day. In fact, I think our whole team made an effort to get better," said Gryboski.

In the final contest between the local rivals, Wilkes would score all six of their runs in the fourth inning. Following their first deficit of the series, a 1-0 lead by King's for three innings, the Colonels would bat through the lineup to seal their fate.

With Kerdesky, Wormuth and Malatesta on base due to a fielder's choice and two singles, respectively, Reno would find himself at the plate with bases loaded. He delivered with a single to the left side, while Harder would bring in two RBIs on a single over short and into left. Bobbin would single to left to bring in Reno. Harder would score following a pop-up by Patrizio, and Bayo would bring in Bobbin on a single to left to close out Wilkes' scoring efforts for the weekend.

Gage Coudriet would earn his second win of the season on the victory, while Sawyer Kemp would record three strikeouts in relief before Indzonka would close the contest.

"The series against King's is always enjoyable," said Pronti. "There's a lot of chirping, and that's been there since our freshman year. Players get more involved, and tensions run a little higher, and I think these wins are helping to prove to our team that we are capable of doing serious damage in this conference."

Wilkes will compete in two doubleheaders against DeSales on April 17 and 18 in their second-to-last regular season series.



@wilkesbeacon  
Kirsten.Peters@wilkes.edu

The Beacon - April 14, 2021

Sports

# WLAX: Three hat-tricks and a haul propels Wilkes over Del Val

By Ariel Reed  
Sports Editor

EDWARDSVILLE, Pa. -- The women's lacrosse team took to the field against Delaware Valley on April 7, where the team won 16-11 in the first game where spectators were allowed in attendance.

"It feels amazing, not so much for coaches but for players - they were the ones who needed the fans," said head coach Sarah Burkharth. "I'm so glad they can finally have family members here. I think it makes them more hyped and ready to play."

Both the MAC, and subsequently Wilkes University, updated their ruling on fans for outdoor games, allowing a limited number of spectators in attendance.

"It feels great to have our parents back," said junior goalkeeper Ashley Coughlin. "I transferred here from a school in New Hampshire where my parents weren't able to come to a lot of my games, so it's really nice for them to be back here and to hear them."

The excitement surrounding parents being allowed to come was evident, as Wilkes jumped-out to a 3-0 start within the first three minutes of the contest. Junior midfielder Laura Bayzick recorded two goals, while senior attacker Ashley Burkhardt added one - to kick off the scoring for Wilkes.

Delaware Valley fought to remain close in scoring by answering Wilkes' three goals with two of their own.



The Beacon/Ariel Reed

**Junior midfielder Domenica Lerch broke away from a Delaware Valley defender to score her first goal in the game.**

Bouncing back from the back-to-back Aggie goals, the Colonels went on a four-goal tear from senior defender Delaney Lukowski, Burkhardt (2) and sophomore midfielder Brooklyn Pedana.

With the Colonel offense firing on all cylinders, Delaware Valley struggled to match pace and only scored one additional goal in the first half.

To close out the first, junior attacker Camryn Devitt, Bayzick and junior midfielder Domenica Lerch chipped in some extra goals for Wilkes to provide a comfortable lead heading into the break.

"Overall, our offense has been struggling, but we knew what we needed to work on," said Lerch. "I feel the offense worked well together, and we were able to

come up on top today."

After the break, the Colonels started to get comfortable, and Delaware Valley started to make their way back into the game as a result.


"We knew coming in that we were a stronger team through scouting them," said Burkharth. "I think this made us comfortable. I think we played down to their level a little bit and let them creep up."

The Aggies scored two goals early into the second quarter to cut the lead to three. Devitt scored for the Colonels to bring the game to 11-9.

With a little over 16 minutes left in the game, junior midfielder Allyson Joly, who scored her first goal of the season, along with Lerch answered a goal from the Aggies, making the score 13-10. Another goal from Lerch allowed for the team to have three players with a hat trick and a haul (four goals) from Bayzick.

The lacrosse team returned to the field on April 10, where the result was not as desirable, as they fell to FDU-Florham 23-4 on Senior Day. Lerch, Bayzick, Pedana and first year midfielder Breanne Fulling were the only Colonels to score against the Devils. They return to the field on April 17 against Albright College.

Limited fans are allowed in attendance. For those who are unable to attend in person, a live stream can be found at [gowilkesu.com](http://gowilkesu.com).

 @wilkesbeacon  
Ariel.Reed@wilkes.edu

## ▶▶▶▶▶▶ SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULES ◀◀◀◀◀◀

### Men's Tennis

3/20 @ King's, W 8-1  
3/27 @ Messiah, W 6-3  
4/2 vs. York, W 9-0  
4/10 @ Lycoming, noon  
4/13 vs. King's, 3 p.m.  
4/17 vs. Arcadia, 1:45 p.m.  
4/21 @ DeSales, 3:30 p.m.  
4/24 vs. Misericordia, 2 p.m.  
5/1 vs. FDU-Florham, 9 a.m.  
5/1 vs. Stevens, 1:30 p.m.

### Baseball

3/27 @ Stevens, L 16-6  
3/27 @ Stevens, L 5-3  
3/28 vs. Stevens, W 6-0  
3/28 vs. Stevens, L 8-5  
4/2 vs. FDU-Florham, W 7-6  
4/2 vs. FDU-Florham, W 9-0  
4/3 @ FDU-Florham, W 18-7  
4/3 @ FDU-Florham, W 13-4  
4/10 vs. King's, W 6-5  
4/10 vs. King's, W 11-4  
4/12 @ King's, 2:30 p.m.  
4/12 @ King's, 5 p.m.  
4/17 @ DeSales, noon  
4/17 @ DeSales 2:30 p.m.

### Men's Lacrosse

3/6 @ York, L 19-3  
3/13 vs. Messiah, L 9-4  
3/17 vs. DeSales, L 12-4  
3/20 @ King's, W 14-9  
3/24 vs. Arcadia, L 16-6  
3/26 @ Stevens, L 21-6  
4/7 @ Delaware Valley, L 12-7  
4/10 @ FDU-Florham, W 9-8 (OT)  
4/14 vs. Lycoming, 7 p.m.  
4/17 vs. Albright, 1 p.m.  
4/21 vs. Lebanon Valley, 4 p.m.  
4/24 vs. Misericordia, 1 p.m.

# SB: Colonels are unable to break eight-game losing streak

By Chris Gowarty  
Asst. Sports Editor

In two doubleheaders this week against Arcadia University on April 7 and Lebanon Valley College on April 10, Wilkes dropped all four games. The Colonels are now 2-12 on the season and are on an eight-game losing streak.

"We definitely have been starting the last few games with great energy and being able to set the tone," said head coach Jackie Klahold. "As we have discussed as a team, we need to be able to slow things down and process each play, especially later in games. When we do that, we have some very strong innings, but when we start to speed things and get ahead of ourselves, that's when we get in trouble and some of the easiest plays turn the other way."

In the first game against Arcadia, Wilkes opened up the scoring in the top of the third with an RBI single off the bat of senior pitcher Rachel Pritchard, scoring junior third baseman Caylee-Mae Williams.

Williams would follow-up Pritchard's RBI single with one of her own in the top of the fourth, giving the Colonels an early 2-0 lead after four innings. However, in the bottom of the fifth, Arcadia put up six runs off of seven hits. The run count would remain the same for the rest of the game, as Arcadia took the first game of the series, 6-2.

"Lately, I have been feeling really



The Beacon/Ariel Reed

Junior Caylee-Mae Williams positioned herself behind the plate to catch a pitch.

motivated to hit the ball," said Pritchard in regards to her recent success at the plate. "My approach is to usually think about hitting solid base hits and hitting the pitch I want."

In game two, Arcadia jumped out to a quick 5-0 lead in the first and followed

with two runs in the second and one more in the third to seal the deal. Williams and senior center fielder Haley Boyd would have the only hits for the Colonels in the second game, as Arcadia won 8-0 via mercy-rule in five innings.

"Recently, I have been feeling more and


more confident in the box," said Williams. "I have adapted my approach to include more positive self-talk and visualization to influence more positive outcomes. In addition, I have gone in the box with the mindset that I am there to hit - to do a job - and I do not look to settle for anything less."

Wilkes' next doubleheader came against Lebanon Valley. Pritchard continued to stay hot, hitting a two RBI single to help Wilkes score three in the first. The Colonels would have a 7-2 lead heading into the bottom of the seventh, but they found themselves losing the first contest thanks to a five-run comeback to give Lebanon Valley an 8-7 win.

In game two, Lebanon Valley opened up the scoring with one run in the first. They would score two more in the third, one more in the fifth and two more in the sixth to shut out the Colonels, 6-0.

"In order to break the streak, I just need to be the best player I can be and the same with my teammates," said Pritchard. "We need to work together and work hard to fix the little things that aren't clicking right now."

The Colonels will take the field at home, looking to break their losing streak tomorrow against Lebanon Valley in another doubleheader beginning at 4 p.m.

 @wilkesbeacon  
Christopher.Gowarty@wilkes.edu

## ▶▶▶▶▶▶ SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULES ◀◀◀◀◀◀

### Women's Tennis

- 3/20 @ King's, W 9-0
- 3/27 @ Messiah, W 8-1
- 4/2 vs. York, W 8-1
- 4/10 @ Lycoming, noon
- 4/14 vs. King's, 3 p.m.
- 4/17 vs. Arcadia, 1 p.m.
- 4/20 @ DeSales, 3:30 p.m.
- 4/24 vs. Misericordia, 1 p.m.
- 5/1 vs. FDU-Florham, 9 a.m.
- 5/1 vs. Stevens, 1:30 p.m.

### Softball

- 3/27 vs. King's, L 3-0
- 3/27 vs. King's, L 10-2
- 3/28 @ King's, L 11-0
- 3/28 @ King's, W 4-2
- 3/31 vs. Misericordia, L 4-2
- 3/31 vs. Misericordia, L 6-2
- 4/1 @ Misericordia, L 8-1
- 4/1 @ Misericordia, L 8-3
- 4/7 @ Arcadia, L 6-2
- 4/7 @ Arcadia, L 8-0
- 4/10 @ Lebanon Valley, L 6-0
- 4/10 @ Lebanon Valley, L 8-7
- 4/15 vs. Lebanon Valley, 4 p.m.
- 4/15 vs. Lebanon Valley, 6 p.m.

### Women's Lacrosse

- 3/6 vs. York, L 22-0
- 3/13 @ Messiah, POSTPONED
- 3/20 vs. King's, L 22-7
- 3/23 @ DeSales, L 16-6
- 3/24 @ Arcadia, W 8-7
- 3/27 vs. Stevens, L 23-6
- 4/7 vs. Delaware Valley, W 16-11
- 4/10 vs. FDU-Florham, L 23-4
- 4/14 @ Lycoming, 4:30 p.m.
- 4/17 @ Albright, 1 p.m.
- 4/20 @ Misericordia, 7 p.m.

Getting to know...

# Tony Molitoris

## Senior Baseball Player



The Beacon/Ariel Reed

**The Beacon: Male Athlete of the Week from April 1 to 8**  
Why Tony Molitoris was selected: Molitoris proved vital against conference opponents Stevens and FDU-Florham with 14 shutout innings across Wilkes' 6-0 and 9-0 victories, respectively. As of April 11, Molitoris has recorded 14 strikeouts and has a 2.43 ERA on the season.

**Name:** Tony Molitoris  
**Year:** Senior  
**Major:** Accounting  
**Hometown:** Hanover Township, Pa.  
**High School:** Holy Redeemer H.S.  
**Position:** Pitcher

**Other interests or hobbies off of the field?**

Off of the field, I enjoy spending time with my friends, family and my two dogs.

**Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?**

I transferred to Wilkes in the beginning of my spring semester sophomore year. I chose Wilkes because I wanted a change in academic setting and to compete on the baseball team.

**Favorite building on campus?**

My favorite building is UCOM, where I spend a lot of my time on campus. Since I am a business major, a majority of my classes that I have in-person are in there, and I like to do my work in the student study rooms. Starbucks being located in UCOM makes it pretty good, too.

**Hopes for this season as a Colonel?**

For the rest of this season, I hope the team comes ready to win each series and compete during every pitch. Eventually, when playoff time comes, we'll make a run, too.

**Favorite meal to eat on campus?**

I like getting some breakfast food and a black cold brew iced coffee from Starbucks.

**When/Why did you first begin playing?**

I began playing tee ball when I was four. I enjoy playing sports and being active. When I was younger, my parents signed me up to play baseball, basketball and soccer. Baseball was always my favorite sport to play though.

**What color/flavor of Gatorade is your favorite?**

I am a fan of the yellow/lemon lime Gatorade.

**Favorite thing to do during practice?**

My favorite thing to do at practice is shagging fly balls in the outfield during batting practice, especially if it is a nice sunny day on the warm turf at Bruggeworth.

**If your life was a movie, who would you want to play you and why?**

I would want Matthew McConaughey to play me because he is a great actor, and I like his voice.

**If you had to choose one thing about your program that you could improve, what would it be?**

If I could improve one thing about our program, I would improve the locker rooms in the fieldhouse.

**If you could have dinner with a famous person from the past, who would it be?**

I would want to take to the great Hank Aaron. I was watching a game on TV, and he was a guest in the analysts' booth telling stories from when he played. So, I would like to hear some of his other stories and talk about baseball with one of the greatest hitters ever.

– Compiled by Ariel Reed, Sports Editor

Getting to know...

# Caylee-Mae Williams

## Junior Softball Player

**The Beacon: Female Athlete of the Week from April 1 to 8**  
**Why Caylee-Mae Williams was selected:** Williams started her game against Misericordia with an out-of-the-park home run, the first one of her career and the lone run for Wilkes in the contest.

**Name:** Caylee-Mae Williams  
**Year:** Junior  
**Major:** Psychology  
**Minor:** Sports Psychology  
**Hometown:** Yuba City, Calif.  
**High School:** River Valley H.S.  
**Position:** Catcher and infielder

**Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?**

The home-like community at Wilkes really drew me in to wanting to come here. Given that I do live over 2,000 miles away, I wanted to be sure I chose a university that made me feel welcomed and accepted.

**Hopes for this season as a Colonel?**

One of my biggest hopes for this season is to see our current team grow as a family. We have a group of strong, talented women that I cannot wait to see blossom throughout the rest of my time here.

**When/Why did you first begin playing?**

I first began playing when I was 12, simply because my other friends at school were all playing softball. I definitely did not like it at first, but over time, I fell in love with the complexity of the game. There is always something new to learn and ways to improve - no matter how old you are or how long you have been playing. I continued to fall in love with the team aspect of the sport because in the game of softball you cannot win without a whole team behind you.

**Favorite thing to do during practice?**

My favorite thing to do is different drills. I have always thought going back to the basics is a vital way to stay on top of your game.

**If you had to choose one thing about your program that you could improve, what would it be?**

The amount of grit we exhibit. A coach one time told me, "When things get tough and a game is close, the team with the most grit at the end of the day will take the win."

**Other interests or hobbies off of the field?**

Off the field, I value spending time with my friends and family. Considering I am so far from home, I do my best to call and FaceTime my friends and family back home whenever I can. I also enjoy being in nature, so I find hikes nearby and places to go picnic.

**Favorite building on campus?**

My favorite building on campus has to be UCOM because it has Starbucks in it.

**Favorite meal to eat on campus?**

The ice cream that's in the SUB.

**What color/flavor of Gatorade is your favorite?**

My favorite Gatorade is the cool blue flavor that comes in the sippy bottle.

**If your life were a movie, who would you want to play you and why?**

If my life were a movie, I would have Dolly Parton play me because of her spunk and sass.

**If you could have dinner with a famous person from the past, who would it be?**

If I could have dinner with a famous person from the past, I would want to sit down with Martin Luther King Jr. due to his overwhelming influence on our society today.

- Compiled by Ariel Reed, Sports Editor



The Beacon/Ariel Reed

# MVB: Misericordia sweeps Wilkes in consolation playoff game

By Baylee Guedes  
Sports Staff Writer

The Colonels condensed season ended on April 7 at Misericordia University during a MAC Tournament consolation playoff game, where Wilkes lost the match 3-0.

Wilkes went into the match as the No. 9 seed, whereas the Cougars were the No. 6 seed.

"The guys prepared for the match with the same intensity that they did for every match this season," said head coach Joseph Czopek. "The guys gave 100 percent, just as they did all season long."

The first match started with two attack errors on Wilkes, which led to two easy points for the Cougars. The Colonels eventually came back with kills by junior middle hitter Ethan Speicher, sophomore outside hitter Zach Evans and first-year middle hitter Paul Binner, all assisted by sophomore setter Zach Shay.

"Zach Evans has done a good job for our team all season long, along with both middle hitters, Ethan Speicher and Paul Binner," said Czopek.

Despite the kills from Speicher, Evans and Binner, Wilkes could not get their offense in rhythm, as more attack errors in the first set fueled Misericordia to a win.



The Beacon/Ariel Reed

Sophomore Zach Evans (left) and junior Ethan Speicher (right) attempted to block a kill from Wildener University on March 27.

The Colonels started the second set with a lead, making some promise that this set would roll in their favor, but the power of the Cougars took charge on the court, and Misericordia won the second match.

In the third and final set, Wilkes opened with kills by Evans and first-year outside hitter Jackson Shafer.

"We were down 2-0, and we had to fight back," said Evans. "I think the main thing was not holding back. Everyone knew we had to stay aggressive."

Wilkes led the match 11-9 until Misericordia capitalized on an attack error by the Colonels. The two teams were battling back-and-forth with one another, but Misericordia kept the

lead while Wilkes kept edging behind.

Misericordia took the third and closest scoring set, 25-21.

"It was nice to be able to play the consolation game with the season being so short because of COVID," said Shay. "It was disappointing not to take a set off of Misericordia, but we gave it all we had on the court."

This was the final contest for Wilkes this season, and they are ready to begin their work to improve for next season.

"All the experience this young team gained – like feeling the pressure of a playoff match – will help us next season," said Czopek. "I am excited to see this young team continue to develop together and grow in their volleyball game IQ."

There will be many starting returners, as the team is relatively young in age.

"The team goal for next season will be believing in ourselves when we step on the court," said Shay. "We are a very young team, so we are returning most of our starters from next year, and we will be building our skills to be able to compete in this tough conference."

The Colonels will return to the court in the winter of 2022.



@wilkesbeacon  
Baylee.Guedes@wilkes.edu

## SENUNAS' BAR AND GRILL

ALL DAY. EVERY DAY.

16 oz. Aluminum Cans	\$1.75
Fireball Shots	\$1.75
Pinnacle Bombs	\$2.00
Twisted Tea	\$3.00
Redds	\$3.00
Corona & Heineken Bottles	\$3.00
SBC Drafts and Bottles	\$3.00
32. oz. Bacardi or Deep	\$7.50
Eddy Pitchers	
Bucket Specials (5, 16 oz. cans)	\$9.00

NEW HOURS

Bar:

Monday thru. Saturday 5 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Kitchen:

Monday thru. Saturday 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.

CHECK OUT OUR ASSORTED APPS, WINGS, BURGERS & MORE ONLINE!  
senunas-wb.com



LOCATED: 133 N. MAIN STREET

SHOW YOUR WILKES ID AND GET 10% OFF